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Remarks on the Irish Language, with a Review of its Grammars, Glossaries, Vocabularies and Dictionaries ; to which is added, a model of a comprehensive Irish Dictionary. By James Scurry.

Read Oct. 23, 1826.

THE laudable desire recently evinced by the Royal Irish Academy, conformably with the spirit of its institution, to promote inquiries respecting the literature and antiquities of Ireland, has given rise to the following essay. It has been compiled with a view to ascertain how far the efforts of our Grammarians and Lexicographers have unfolded the analogies of our language, to what extent their exertions have tended to preserve its purity or establish a correct standard of orthography, and, particularly, whether their labours are calculated accurately to facilitate its attainment.* This investigation has necessarily led to a review of the excellencies and defects of our Philological compilations, and of what yet remains to be performed, in order to achieve the foregoing objects. The whole is followed by a model of a Dictionary, intended to comprise rules for pronunciation, the etymologies of words, their various meanings in Irish synonyma, Latin, English, &c., examples taken from our most approved writers, and other particulars incident

* ARCHBISHOP USHER has ranked the Irish language “ among the first in elegance and richness ” — “ Est quidem Lingua Hibernica et elegans cum primis, et opulenta ” : — The remainder of the sentence, as will appear in the sequel, after a lapse of nearly 200 years, is equally applicable to the present period. — “ sed ad eam isto modo excolendam (sicuti reliquas ferè Europæ linguas vernaculas intra hoc seculum excultas videmus) nondum extitit hactenus, qui animum adjiceret ; nullum adhuc habemus hujus linguæ Lexicon, sive per se factum, sive cum aliâ linguâ comparatum. ” — *Epist. J. USSERI ARMACH. Archiep.*

to the language. The entire is submitted with every deference to the Academy; and as the writer's only motive is to benefit our national literature, (if it be not presumptuous to suppose that his humble labours can have that effect,) it is hoped that the intention will secure him, at least, the indulgence of that portion of his fellow countrymen, who feel an interest in the preservation of the venerable language of their ancestors.

This language, as an object of literature, is deserving of the utmost attention. It possesses all the marks of a primordial tongue, and derives its origin from the most remote antiquity. Its primitive words are generally monosyllables. The different classes of derivatives are produced by a mechanism simple and regular. It furnishes a key to all those other branches of the widely extended Celtic, which imitate the formation of its inflections, but are much inferior to it in simplicity and in the preservation of the common radices. These circumstances, particularly the latter, have recommended the language of Ireland to the attention of the learned of Europe, from some of the most distinguished of whom it drew forth the highest eulogiums.* But however honoured abroad it is slighted at home. By our gentry abandoned, and by our literati, ignorant of its beauties, it has been generally but unmeritedly neglected.† Like some ma-

* Among others, that prodigy of human learning, LEIBNITZ says—"Postremo, ad perficiendam, vel certe valde promovendam literaturam Celticam, *diligentius linguæ Hibernicæ studium adjungendum censeo*, ut Lwydius egregie facere cepit.—Ex Hibernicis, vetustiorum adhuc Celtarum, Germanorumque, et, ut generaliter dicam accolarum oceani Britannici cismarinorum *antiquitatis illustrantur*. *Collect. Etymolog. Vol. 1. p. 153.*

† An honourable exception to the above must be made in favour of three distinguished Fellows of the College of Dublin, Doctor Anthony Raymond, who was deeply skilled in the language and history of Ireland; Doctor Young, late Bishop of Clonfert, whose valuable disquisitions on the antient poetry of the country, appeared in the first volumes of the Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy, and our talented and patriotic cotemporary, Doctor Whitley Stokes, who has evinced a warm attachment to our literature.

jestic edifice, once the proud seat of imperial grandeur, after a lapse of time and change of circumstances, deserted, decayed and doomed to shelter the humble peasant or the shepherd's care. The sublime and lofty halls, pinnacles and towers, splendid but melancholy monuments of former magnificence, remain to exercise the talents of antiquarian learning and excite the admiration of ages. Such at the present day, is the language of Ireland. But after braving a thousand storms, it yet remains unimpaired and so will continue, *monumentum ære perennius*.* This venerable fabric is the subject of our present consideration. We shall now proceed to consider its various parts, and in doing so, it will appear how far we are qualified for the attempt.

The Irish language, as before observed, contains within it the radices of the ancient Celtic. The affinities between the latter and the dialects derived from it can be better traced in the Irish than in any of the other existing branches of that great stock. The knowledge of it alone would yield more materials for a system of Etymology than any other language, the Hebrew excepted, and even more than we can be supplied with by all the laborious researches of etymologists put together, notwithstanding their having paid the most unremitting attention to the subject. Several classes of words in most of the Oriental languages bear visible marks of being derived from the same common parent as the Irish. Many of the northern languages have originated from the same source. If etymologies were

* It is now ascertained that the Irish language is spoken in the interior of many of the West Indian islands, in some of which it may be said to be almost vernacular. This curious fact is satisfactorily explained by documents in the possession of my respected friend, James Hardiman, Esq., author of the History of Galway. After the reduction of Ireland by Cromwell and his myrmidons, the thousands who were "shipped to the Carribbes" so these islands, were then called, "and sold as slaves," carried with them their language. That they preserved, and there it remains to this day.

not traced back farther than the Greek and Latin, we should soon discover that we have not yet arrived at the fountain-head. Even these celebrated languages, as to their origin, may be traced to more ancient sources, namely, the Hebrew and the Celtic. The words which the former have, in common with the Irish, are not to be considered as derived from it, nor are those in the Irish derived from them, but all are referable to the Celtic and Hebrew, both of which are deemed by many learned Philologists dialects of the primeval tongue.* Were this subject carefully investigated, satisfactory proofs would be found to confirm what is here advanced, and new discoveries made, by which the progress of society, of customs, arts and sciences would be illustrated. I shall here give a few specimens of derivations in support of what I have said on this subject. But it may not be irrelevant previously to point out the mode which should be pursued in deriving words in other languages from the Hebrew and Celtic, which will be found of advantage if attended to by the student.

In all the languages which make no distinction between *radical* and *servile* letters, the following general rules will serve for reducing words into their first principles in the Hebrew and Celtic. Let that portion of the word which remains unvaried be considered as the radical term, and let the terminational changes be disregarded or lopped off. Compound words should be resolved into their component parts, and particles used in the composition of attributive words should be excluded. In such as are reducible

* SHAW, in the Preface to his Dictionary of the Galic language, calls the Irish "the greatest monument of antiquity perhaps now in the world. The perfection," he adds, "to which the Galic arrived in Ireland in such remote ages is astonishing."—This learned and unprejudiced Scotchman, alluding to the MSS. in Trinity College, Dublin, calls them, "Scaled Books," and thus concludes his observations :—"Whilst I surveyed and examined them, and looked back to the ancient state of this once blessed and lettered island, they produced emotions easier conceived than described."—4to. London, 1780.

to Hebrew roots, consisting entirely of consonants, the intervening letters employed for their enunciation are not to be deemed essential, as not constituting a part of the root. Another universal rule, which should always be attended to, is, that letters of the same organ are substituted one for another; such as labials, dentals, gutturals, nasals and palatals; for instance *b* for *p*, *c* for *g*, *d* for *t*, *f* for *v*, &c. By a careful attention to the mutual changes and substitutions of these letters an unerring clue is found by the etymologist in tracing words to their origin.

Let us instance the Latin word *capio* and all its derivatives. We find the root to be *cap*, from the Celtic *gab*, to take in the hand, which last is found to be the same as the Hebrew *כף* *caph* or *cap*, the palm or hollow of the hand—hence, the meaning of *capio* is to take in the hand, to hold; thence come *captivus*, *cavus*, and many more.

Χεῖρα, to carve, engrave. The radical consonants are *χρ*, from the Hebrew *כרת*, to cut, to engrave in wood or stone; Celtic *gab*, cut thou; *gabab* cutting; *ceab* cutting, engraving; *gabab* cutting, polishing, engraving, carving.

Φερα, dowry, &c. Heb. *פרך*, *pheren*, to endow. Irish *phos* or *bhos*, endow thou, bestow; *gab* a gift.

The negative particle *in* in Latin, as *inimicus*, *imprudens*, from *אין* *ain*, not. Irish *an*, a negative, and sometimes intensitive, particle used in composition, and *h* not.

Modius, *modus*, *moderor*, &c. in Latin, from *מד* *mad*, a measure. Irish, *meab*, a mean or balance; *mod* a mode or manner.

Mixtura, mixture, *misceo*, *μυγω*, radical consonants, *μγ*, from *מסך* *mesec*, to mix. Irish, *meib* or *meic*, mix thou; hence *meib* or *meic*, drunkenness, i. e. mingling or adulteration.

Heb. *אב*, *ab*, an abbot, Ir. *ab*, an abbot; father; lord; a cause.

Heb. אַוִּיל *auil*, evil, folly;—Irish *olc*, *áinbhe*, terrible, dreadful, pronounced *aveil*.

Heb. הוּל *hul*, to howl;—Ir. *uaíll*, a howl; *hul*, weeping, wailing.

Heb. יַיִן *iin*, wine; Gr. *oinos*; Lat. *vinum*; Ir. *uinn* or *uinn*.

Heb. שָׂרִיז *sariz*, to multiply, increase; Lat. *cresco*; Gr. *sofos*, a heap; Irish *bheir*, an increase; *uinn*, exceedingly; *uinn* excess; *uinn*, exceeding; *uinn*, a heap, a rick, a pile.

Heb. לָט, *lat*, to hide, Lat. *lateo*; Ir. *laic*, to dive, *uinn*, a cover, i. e. *uinn*, under, and *uinn* lying, i. e. a lying under.

Heb. דִּיק *dik*, a mound, fortification, dyke; Ir. *uinn* and *uinn* a dyke.

Heb. עָבַד *obed*, to labour, to serve; Lat. *opus*, a work, *obedio*, to obey, Ir. *obain*, work, *uinn*, *uinn* or *uinn*, homage, obedience.

Heb. שִׁקְוִי *succui*, juice, moisture; Lat. *succus*; Irish *uinn* or *uinn* juice.

Heb. קָרָא *kara*, to cry, to crow;—Ir. *uinn* a cry, *uinn* cries; *uinn* calling, crowing; Lat. *garrio*, to babble, to prate, to chirp as a bird, to chatter; Gr. *garreo*, or *garreo*, *garreo*, a voice; *uinn*, *garun*, the throat; *uinn* a narrow path; *uinn* the throat.

Heb. קֶרֶן *keren*, a horn; Latin *cornu*; Ir. *uinn*, a horn, a cup.

Heb. צִוּק *tzuk*, to confine, straiten; hence, *choak*, *check*, in English; Irish *uinn*, choak; *uinn* silence; *uinn*, congeal, straiten.

Heb. מוּת *muth*; death; Irish *uinn*, extinguish, suffocate; *uinn* decay.

Similar etymologies might be extended to considerable length. These few are adduced as proofs of the close connection between the Hebrew and Celtic, and the other dialects into which those languages insinuate themselves, and which are derived from them as common parents. On the same plan, philological investigations might

be carried to considerable extent, and be productive of much philological entertainment and instruction.

A knowledge of the Irish language is easily acquired. It is simple and regular in its structure, possesses few flexional heteroclites, and the various sounds of its letters are so fixed to certain positions in words, and with such regular combinations as to be almost invariable and determinate. It will appear in the sequel that the student is not yet furnished with sufficient aids for that acquirement. It is presumed, that to facilitate the attainment of this purest branch of the ancient language of the Celts, would be a work as desirable to the native, as it would be valuable and interesting to the learned foreigner. The former it would render familiar with the written memorials of the learning and wisdom of his forefathers. It would enable him to relish the sweets of our charming poetical compositions, not inferior to those of the celebrated antients, which have so long and so deservedly regulated the taste of mankind. His ideas would be enriched by opening to his view the treasures and beauties of a language "unparalleled in describing nature in her fairest forms and most stupendous operations," and in giving expression to the strongest as well as the gentlest passions of the mind. To the originality, copiousness and historical utility of our language, the most enlightened antiquaries and profound philologists of Europe have borne testimony. Facts and existing monuments corroborate their opinions, and shew that they were not the result of prepossession, interest or prejudice. The learned foreigner, attempting by etymology to trace the radices of words in any of the languages founded on the Celtic, or by antiquarian research, to develop the history of any of the early nations of Europe, would here find lights to irradiate the hitherto impervious gloom of northern antiquity. This sequestered dialect would enable him to clear up many

historical doubts respecting the origin of the various nations of this quarter of the globe. Let it not be supposed that this is assuming too much. It is the declared opinion of some of the wisest and most learned of mankind.

Having stated that a knowledge of the Irish language is easily acquired, I did so, well aware that an idea directly the contrary generally prevails. The cause of this erroneous opinion now remains to be explained.

From the description given of our language by some modern sciolists, many are apt to consider it insuperably abstruse. This idea of imaginary difficulties has prevented many from prosecuting its study. They are apprehensive that but little of value can be derived from a language pronounced inelegant, dissonant, and almost unattainable. When students find O'Flaherty, Archdeacon Lynch, O'Connor and Vallancey, those luminaries of Irish lore, charged with mistranslations,* and with giving as the meaning of some words sig-

* Mr. O'Reilly, a modern compiler of an Irish-English Dictionary, with a Grammar prefixed (both of which will be found noticed in their proper places,) has particularly laboured in this worthy vocation. He has singled out the venerable Vallancey as the principal object of unprincipled attack. A single instance of this treatment will suffice to shew the value of the remainder. In an account of Irish writers compiled by him, and, by the way, abounding with mistranslations, printed in the Transactions of the Ibero-Celtic Society, Dublin, 1820, p. cix; noticing a law tract in the Book of Ballimote, called by him the "*Seanchas bheg*," (which word *bheg* is a feminine adjective placed by this grammarian in *concord*, or rather *discord* with a masculine noun,) he says "At the commencement of this tract, there is the following note, in the late venerable Charles O'Connor's hand-writing: "Elements of Law, obscure to me for want of a Law Glossary. *Catal ra Concobair*". This is followed by another note, in the hand-writing of the late General Vallancey, in *ungrammatical Irish*. *Cjgam jad go mair mo canrad. Catal ra bhallanyej*. I understand them well, my friend. Charles Vallancey. *Those who understand the law dialect of the Irish,*" continues the critic, "and have compared with the originals the translations of the fragments published by the General, in the Collectanea de Rebus Hibernicis, are able to set a proper value on this boast." How will the liberal minded reader feel when he finds that this envenomed shaft was let fly at the memory of this distinguished man for an inad-

nifications which "never entered into the brains" of the ancient writers, they have reason to be deterred from studying our language, and to despair of ever attaining a knowledge of it. But it becomes necessary to know from whom these charges originate, in order that they should be duly appreciated. Suppose, then, persons who acquired a reading knowledge of the Irish language, becoming surprized at their sudden acquisition, and without any other possible claim to notice, assuming airs of lettered importance. At length, venturing to pass criticisms on the works of the truly learned, they single out casual inadvertencies for observation, thereby hoping to acquire the character of scholars and critics. With those incapable of judging, the experiment proved successful; and success and impunity, as they usually do, emboldened fresh attempts. Suppose again the same persons to assume as their own, the unpublished labours of others, in order to raise a literary reputation at the expence of the dead. But this is not all. Pedants of this class have inflicted more serious injuries on the cause of Irish Literature. They have, by the means already detailed, for the vain purpose of being considered as the only oracles of our language, induced very general but erroneous ideas of its abstruseness. This has had the effect of preventing it from being more universally studied. To counteract, if possible, so serious an evil, I must again repeat, that from the simple and regular structure of our language, a knowledge of it can be more easily and expeditiously acquired than that of most other languages. No credence, therefore, should be given to such misrepresentations, and no one should be deterred from prosecuting its study. I could

vertence which might have easily occurred to any one in the hurry of transcription. The erroneous orthography of *τῆς γῆς* rectius *τῆς γῆς* is its only error, unless the omission of an aspiration over the *c*, and the duplication of *γ* in the word "*γαγγαδ*" might be considered, by our critic, as *ungrammatical*. So much for the candor of this class of literary pioneers. "Ex uno disce omnes."

have gone much farther on this point, descended to particulars, and exposed the ignorance of these superficial pedants, for pedantry is always superficial, but I wish to avoid what I condemn. Less I could not have said to vindicate the memory of the benefactors of our literature, and to expose the arts which discouraged the study of our language. I shall, therefore, now drop this ungrateful part of my subject, and proceed to that which may prove more beneficial to the student.

Several individuals variously qualified as to talents and learning have laboured with much credit to themselves and benefit to our language in unfolding its analogies. They have endeavoured to elucidate its construction, according to various grammatical systems, to explain difficult passages in our old manuscripts by means of Glossaries, and to define the meanings of words by Vocabularies and Dictionaries. Much has been done in these respects by natives, and even by ingenious foreigners, to whose united labours modern philologists are indebted for whatever knowledge of the subject they possess. Much yet remains to be done with respect to the elucidation of grammar by a proper analysis founded on the genius and analogy of the language itself. A dictionary is yet wanted: 1st, to fix a standard for orthography from proved principles of analogy, and to decide which of the various modes wherein the same word is found in authors of former times should in future be adopted. 2. To point out the pronunciation of words according to the same principles, distinguishing provincial peculiarities. 3. To shew the genders of nouns, their genitive case singular and nominative plural, as also the masculine and feminine forms of adjectives with their declensions, conformably with a grammar to be prefixed. 4. To mark the conjugation of verbs and the case governed by each preposition. 5. To trace the etymologies of the words, to collate them with their correlates in the other Celtic

dialects, and set forth their affinity to foreign tongues in orthography, sense or sound. 6. Above all, to supply, as much as possible, the defects in preceding works of this nature, with respect to numberless words, not yet finding a place in any Lexicon hitherto published.* A Grammar and Dictionary formed upon this system would leave but little to be said or done by future writers on this subject.

I now proceed to notice the Grammars and Lexicons of the Irish language, with their contents, excellencies and defects. This is done, not with a view to detract from the merits of the authors by exposing faults, but to point out the necessity of an undertaking such as I propose, for the purpose of extending a useful knowledge of our language. An investigation of this kind will tend to shew how much more deeply versed in the subject our original writers have been than the moderns; the latter having little more to do than to peruse the works of the former, some, perhaps, with a view to stigmatize those patriotic men, and raise a name on the ruin of their memory. But little is the labour or the honour of those who review their works, and even improve on their systems, from the lights which they afford, compared with the toil and learning of the originals. This is not advanced for the purpose of discouraging useful and liberal criticism, than which nothing would be more beneficial to our native literature. It cannot be supposed that a few essays, written at distant intervals, by exiles labouring under many disadvantages, could restore, or, to the full extent, improve a language ridiculed, misrepresented and proscribed as that of Ireland has

* They are to be found in Irish manuscripts treating of history, laws, medicine, romance, poetry, Divinity, ethics, astronomy, &c. The living language of the country, and different species of poetry handed down by tradition to our own time, abound with them. These words, if gleaned and committed to writing, would enrich our language, and prove useful in leading to the etymologies of many, at present unknown or doubtful.

been. Its best part wrapped up in mouldering Manuscripts, long hidden in ruins and the cabins of the poor at home, or abroad scattered over the kingdoms of Europe. A language, in fine, less indebted to the Printer's art and the Critic's pen, than that of any other civilized country on Earth. We shall now see how far these assertions are borne out by facts, and first as to Grammar.

There are many grammatical treatises extant in MS. compiled long before the invention of Printing ; some of which are of considerable antiquity, but have never been benefitted by that great discovery. The oldest of these, and perhaps the most ancient grammatical treatise extant of any language is the—

Uraicept na n-Eigseas,
OR
“ PRIMER OF THE BARDS ”

written by FEIRCEIRTNE the Poet, by some called FORCHERN, about the period of the Incarnation of our Redeemer, and in the reign of Conor Mac Nessa, monarch of Ireland. This treatise was afterwards revised and enlarged by *Cinfaela na Foghlaim*—“ Cinfaela the learned,” in the seventh century. Of it there are copies preserved in the Books of Leacan and Ballimote, in the possession of the Royal Irish Academy, which, so far as I had an opportunity of comparing, appear to me to agree. A more ancient copy than either, but not so copious, written on vellum in the twelfth century, is in the collection of Mr. Hardiman. This latter appears to me to be the genuine work of Cinfaela. There is in the same collection a much more modern transcript than either of the foregoing, and more diffuse, as containing the additions of subsequent grammarians. This, and all the other ancient grammars,

which I have seen, chiefly treat of the Orthography and Prosody of our language, and that in the most masterly and copious manner, but treat very slightly of Etymology, and not at all of Syntax. Did these venerable documents belong to any other country, or relate to any other language of Europe, they would have long since been laid before the world. It only remains here to express a hope, that as the unfortunate and short-sighted prejudice, which extended even to our language, is at length giving way to more liberal sentiments, the ingenious student may soon be enabled to trace the progress of his native tongue in those original treatises through the medium of the press, to which he is indebted for all these, which we now proceed to notice.

O'MOLLOY'S IRISH GRAMMAR.—ROME, 1677.

The first printed Irish grammar, with which I am acquainted, is that of the Rev. Francis O'Molloy, compiled in Latin, and entitled "*Grammatica Latino-Hibernica nunc compendiata.*—Authore Rev. P. Fr. Francisco O'Molloy, 12mo. Ex Typog. S. Congreg. de Propaganda Fide, Romæ, 1677, pp. 286."*—It contains 25 chapters. The first nine treat of the letters, their nature, enunciation, affinities and various relations. The 10th, 11th and 12th of Etymology, which he handles very slightly, and from the description given by him of the irregular verbs it would be almost sufficient to deter any one from learning the language, whereas they are not near so numerous or so difficult as in other languages.—The 13th chapter treats of the ancient *Ogham* and abbreviations ; and

* The first book printed in Irish types was John Kearney's "*Alphabeticum et ratio legendi Hibernicam et Catechismus in eadem lingua*, 1571. 8vo."—Containing short instructions for reading the language.

the remaining 12 chapters, of Prosody, in which department all succeeding grammarians are indebted to him. The author concludes his work with an appeal to his readers, equally modest and affecting, in the following words :—*Et hæc de his pro nunc sufficient levidensibus. Ceterum, si in aliquo hic forsitan defeci, vel excessi, quæso, excuser ; à quadriginta et amplius annis inter exteros procul positus a patria, patriis monumentis, et magistris, qui aliis mihi omnem possent tergere caliginem.*"

O'Molloy's Grammar is noticed by Lluyd in the preface to the Irish-English Dictionary in his *Archæologia*, solely to point out a defect, in not giving at large all the inflections of the declinable parts of speech and the rules of Syntax. Notwithstanding these important omissions, Lluyd's opinion of its real value is manifest from his giving it a place, though not without enlargement, in his *Archæologia*, as we shall shew in noticing the grammar contained in that great work. O'Molloy uses the modern Irish Alphabet.

LLUYD'S IRISH GRAMMAR,—OXFORD 1707.

The next grammar of our language which appeared was that of Lluyd, just alluded to, contained in his *Archæologia Britannica*, and prefixed to his *Irish-English Dictionary*.* It is chiefly extracted from O'Molloy's and from another in manuscript, written by an anonymous author at Lovain in the year 1669.—It contains seven chapters. The first treats of the letters—the second of the quantity of syllables and parts of speech. The latter he reckons seven, viz. "Article, Noun, Preposition, Verb, Adverb, Conjunction, Pronoun," stating at the same time that the more ancient Grammarians

* This learned work is so well known to every scholar, that it is deemed unnecessary to enter into any description of it here.

reckoned but three, namely Noun, Pronoun and Verb. He translates the word *ἰαμβεαῖα* by the word *Pronoun*, to which he says, "it is now appropriated." In my opinion, the meaning of *ἰαμβεαῖα* is Adverb, or rather Adjunct or Particle, by which the ancients understood those words which point out the relations and circumstances of things, attributes and actions, and under which name were comprehended the Adverb, Preposition, Conjunction and Interjection of the moderns.—Under the head Noun were included the Noun, Adjective and Pronoun, and the Participle they considered as a part of the inflection of the verb.—The 3d chapter treats of the Article. The 4th of the Noun, its derivatives and species.—On this subject he is quite defective, not giving the Declensions of the Nouns or Adjectives, or the comparisons of the latter.*—The 5th. Of the Verb, Pronoun and Participle.—In this department of grammar he is also defective, as he does not shew the conjugation of a verb through any of the modes, except the formation of one regular Verb in the persons and tenses of the Indicative. He omits altogether the defective or irregular Verbs, merely observing, that they are very numerous, and that in conjugating them "the common use and practice of the province, &c. is the only pattern." Of the Pronouns he is silent, except as to declining the three *personal*, by the same number of cases as those of the Latin and Greek.—The 6th treats of Abbreviations in writing, of which he has given a few examples. The remainder of it treats of Prosody, which may be pronounced the most valuable part of this grammar. On the entire, however, this great Philologer is entitled to the gratitude of his successors.

* His rules for the genders of Nouns are liable to the same objections as those of Mac Curtin.—See p. 19.

MAC CURTIN'S IRISH GRAMMAR.—LOVAIN, 1728.

The next Grammar that appeared after Lluyd's is that of Hugh Mac Curtin, entitled, "The Elements of the Irish Language, grammatically explained in English in 14 chapters. By H. Mac Curtin. Small 8vo.—Lovain, 1728.

This grammar is very scarce in its detached state, but that scarcity is less felt in consequence of its being re-printed with his English-Irish Dictionary in the year 1732. The Preface is excellent. In it he states the reasons for undertaking his Grammar, and ably refutes the objections brought by prejudice against such an undertaking, by shewing the advantages derivable from an acquaintance with our language and records. The three first chapters treat of Orthography. The 1st. Of the modern Alphabet, in which he gives the Irish characters of the Letters, their names from trees, and their pronunciation by corresponding Letters in English, Latin or Greek, and classes the Letters into their respective subdivisions. The second treats with clearness and propriety of the influence of Consonants on each other by Eclipsis and Suppression. The third of the Vowels—their nature, quantity, pronunciation and orthography. On this subject he has left room for future labourers in that way. He has classed the vowels into *broad* and *slender*; but has not pointed out their various quantities, long, short, obscure, and diphthongal, nor has he shewn the provincial peculiarities of pronouncing them. He has divided them into Diphthongs and Triphthongs according to terms of art, taken from the characteristic or leading Vowel of each; but has not shewn the various quantities of such of them as are occasionally long and short by nature. In

this chapter he also treats of the accent, and correspondence of Vowels in spelling, of their commutability and elision. The fourth treats of the parts of speech, and first of the Article. In the number of the Parts of Speech he agrees with O'Molloy and Llyud. With respect to the articles he follows the last mentioned Grammarians, and asserts that there are several kinds of Articles; (by which word, I am of opinion, he must mean *Particles*) some he calls *nominals*, and others *verbal*, *adverbial*, *pronominal* and *interrogative*.—He even asserts the impersonal verb *is* or *as* (i. e. it is) to be an article.—Those which he calls *nominals*, with the exception of the definite article *an* (the), are substantives, verbs or interjections. The *verbal* are adverbs. The *adverbial* are prepositions placed before nouns. The *pronominal* are demonstrative or indefinite pronouns; and the *interrogative* are either pronouns or adverbs.—The fifth treats of the form and figure of nouns, which would be well treated if the adjective were distinguished from the substantive. Much more could be said on this subject, which would form an invaluable and curious display of the mechanism of our derivative words, and the analogies by which they are formed on the primitives. The sixth treats of the Noun; its gender, number and case. He says Nouns are of two kinds, viz. Substantive and Adjective. The Substantive of two kinds, viz. common and proper. The Genders two—masculine and feminine. The numbers two—singular and plural. The cases six, as in the Latin, according to the moderns, and four, according to the ancients.

It becomes necessary here to point out some of Mac Curtin's errors in his Rules for distinguishing the Genders of Nouns.—In the fourth Rule he says—"Diminishing derivatives which end in *án*, *éán*, *ín* or *en* are of the masculine gender." Those in *ín* are always of the same gender as the nouns of which they are diminutive.

tives. Example ; *բօան*, *masc.* a man ; *բոնան*, *masc.* a little man. *բօան*, *fem.* a woman ; *բոնան*, *fem.* a little woman, &c. They should, therefore, be excepted. Those nouns ending in “ *ա՛* or *եա՛*,” he says, “ are commonly masculine.” Some are and others are not ; many of them are feminine, as *լուսնա՛*, *the moon* ; *հայրա՛*, *a hag*, &c. His rule for distinguishing the gender of a noun, by the personal pronouns *ե*, or *դե*, *ի* or *դի*, i. e. *he* and *she*, and by the inflections of the Article *ան* (*the*) in the genitive case *masc.* and *fem.* and the aspiration of initial mutable consonants in the Gen. case *masc.* and Nom. singular of feminines, with the eclipsing of *դ* by *տ* in the same cases which require aspiration in the Gen. masculine and Nom. Singular of feminines, is useful to a student who finds the language written before him ; but a speaker or writer of his own sentiments must be acquainted with the gender of the noun before any of those words, which are subordinate to the noun with respect to concord, can receive, from him, their concordant forms. To the latter, therefore, they are no guide. His rule to know the gender of a noun by the adjective following it in the Nom. Singular, which keeps an initial mutable consonant from aspiration if of the masculine, and admits of aspiration, if of the feminine gender ; as *բօան մայր*, *a good man*—*բօան մայր*, *a good woman*, is equally defective as the last mentioned. What ! if the initial of the adjective were a vowel, or an immutable consonant, how then is it to be distinguished ? Certainly not otherwise than by a previous knowledge of the noun’s gender, as in the former case.—His rule for distinguishing the genders of nouns whose initials are vowels, are equally exceptionable as the two former.

With respect to compound nouns formed of two substantives, he says, they retain the gender of the latter, as *հայրմայր* is masculine, because *մայր* the latter part of the compound is so, and *մայրբօան* is ac-

counted feminine because *bean* the latter part of the compound is feminine. Grammarians who have laid down this rule assert these two words to mean a *Queen*, and at the same time say that these two forms of the same word are of different genders. *báínríg*, literally translated, is *Woman-King*, and is of the Masculine Gender (the first part of the compound being always of the nature of an adjective), and *rígbéan* is *King-woman*, and consequently is feminine. But in case they were intended to mean a *Queen*, both should be feminine. If their assertion were true, it would be contrary to nature and their own rules, which say, that “ All names of men and those common to men alone, &c. are of the masculine gender ; and names of women, and those common to women alone, &c. are of the feminine gender.” These errors have been inserted by O’Molloy, Lluyd, Mac Curtin and their successors in their grammars.

The 7th chapter treats of the Declensions of nouns. He says there are many declensions, yet follows those grammarians who reduce them to five. In this chapter he enters into the Declensions of Adjectives with their comparison ; but this subject might be much more simply and regularly treated, for here it is forced to conform to the same manner of declension as the Latin, whereas it should be treated according to the genius of the language itself. The declensions are formed according to the terminations of words and not by their initials, as some subsequent grammarians have inconsiderately attempted. Here I must observe, that there is no part of Irish Grammar, even to this day, so unsatisfactorily explained as the declensions of Nouns. This is evident from the disagreement of Grammarians on the subject. It yet requires their sole attention to ascertain and settle the true system of our declensions.

The 8th chapter treats of the Pronoun. Having given the definition of a Pronoun, he shews there are four kinds, viz. Demonstrative,

Possessive, Relative and Interrogative, together with the accidents belonging to it, to wit, Gender, Number, Case, Declension, Person, and Encrease. The Personal, Indefinite and compound Pronouns are not noticed, which is a considerable omission. There are three declensions given for the Pronouns ; but much more could be explained in this department of Grammar, with great advantage to the student.

The 9th chapter enters into the Verb Active with its modes and tenses. There are three sorts of verbs, viz, active, passive and neuter, but the impersonal is omitted.—Their accidents are five, viz. Person, Number, Tense, Mood and Conjugation—the persons three, the numbers two, the tenses three, the modes six, viz. Indicative, Imperative, Potential, Deprecative, Accustomary and Conjunctive, to which he adds a seventh, viz. the Relative. He does not admit the Infinitive mood, but calls it a verbal noun.—Conjugation is either regular or irregular. Then follows the conjugation of a regular Verb Active through its modes and tenses.—His description of the irregular Verbs is discouraging. He says, after O'Molloy and Lluyd, that they are very numerous, in the forming whereof the common use or practice of the kingdom or the distinct dialects of each province is the only guide and rule. Although more could be said on this portion of Etymology, still great merit is due to Mac Curtin, who is superior to either of his predecessors O'Molloy or Lluyd on this point.—The 10th chapter treats of the Verb Passive, Preposition and Conjunction. He confounds (very improperly, as appears to me,) the verbs passive and impersonal. He then proceeds to conjugate a verb passive through its moods and tenses : then proceeds to the Adverbs, and classes them into their different kinds, and defines the properties of this part of speech, as to figure and comparison. It is then shewn how Adjectives may be converted into Adverbs. This

part admits of much improvement. He next proceeds to define the Preposition and the cases which prepositions govern.—He then defines the Conjunction, of which, he says, there are many kinds, but instances only the copulative and negative; by the latter term, I suppose, he means that, which grammarians call the disjunctive Conjunction.

To do this author justice, he is deserving of the highest praise for his original remarks on Etymology. He has done much, though not so much as could be wished, his predecessors having been so very defective on this head.

The 11th chapter treats of Syntax, which he defines, and then subdivides into two parts called *Concord* and *Government*. The concords he states to be, in the first place, those of the Article, Adjective, Pronoun and Verb with the Noun; and secondly, that of the Conjunction. These concords are respectively treated of, to the end of the chapter, in a very able manner.

The 12th chapter treats of the *government* of the Article, Noun, and Pronoun. This chapter is well elucidated. I find only one error in it, to wit, “That the article ζαc (every) mortifies or extinguishes all genitive cases masculine of the singular number, and all datives following it in the same number if their initial letters, be capable of aspiration, as λεαβαρ ζαc ϣηρ, i. e. every man’s book, το ζαc μναογ, to every or each woman.” These examples prove not his position, but the reverse of it. ϣηρ and μναογ should not be aspirated, unless preceded by the word αεν or ευν, i. e. *one* or *any*, as λεαβαρ ζαc ευν ϣηρ,—το ζαc ευν μναογ.

The 13th chapter treats of the Government of Verbs, Prepositions and Conjunctions. This chapter has left but little to be said on this point by succeeding grammarians.

The 14th chapter treats of the Ogham characters and the abbreviations.—He distinguishes the Ogham into three kinds—the *branch* Ogham, the *C* Ogham, and the *consonantal* Ogham. He then proceeds to treat of the abbreviations or contractions used in manuscripts and printed books, and has given a table of a few of them.

The difference between this and former Grammars is, that the former have given copious Prosodial Rules without entering, except slightly, on Etymology or Syntax, whereas Mac Curtin has ably (considering how slightly these matters had been discussed by former grammarians) treated of these departments of Philology; but has omitted Prosody. On the entire, he deserves much praise, as having a claim, almost, to originality respecting these two important parts of grammar. His memory should be cherished by every Irish student as a benefactor to the literature of his country.

VALLANCEY'S IRISH GRAMMAR.—DUBLIN, 1782.

For nearly half the eighteenth century the Irish student had no other grammatical assistance in the study of his native tongue, except the works already noticed. In the year 1773, however, Major Charles Vallancey, an English gentleman of talents and erudition*, who had previously made our language his study, pub-

* The following testimony is from the pen of a cotemporary Historian.—“ To few men is the History of Ireland more indebted (than to General Vallancey;) and though in some few instances he may be thought to have carried his hypothesis too far, there is no one acquainted with his writings who will not give him the merit of profound erudition, and a vast extent of historical and geographical information. In his knowledge of the mythology, languages and customs of the East, he was equalled by few, if any of his cotemporaries. He was a distinguished Member of the Royal Society and of the Society of Antiquaries of London, Edinburgh and

lished a grammar of it in quarto, with a learned preface, which tended considerably to excite the attention of the public to a subject that had long lain in oblivion. Of this grammar an im-

Perth; of the Royal Irish Academy, of the Philosophical Society of Philadelphia, of the Dublin Society, &c. &c. &c.—He was a valuable contributor to the Antiquarian department of the Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy. He died in the summer of 1812, at the age of 85.” —*History of the United Kingdom, Cork, 1815.*

To the first Edition of his Grammar he prefixed an Irish address, of which the following is a Translation.

“ TO THE LEARNED OF IRELAND.

“ The ancient language of this country is neglected, and on the decline these two hundred years. The discouragement that every attempt for the revival of the Irish language has met with, is a serious injury to ancient history and antiquities, not only to those of this country, but to those of Europe in general, for there is not extant a language, except that of Ireland alone, in which the roots and Etymologies of many words can be satisfactorily explained.

“ The Irish has been deemed difficult in its attainment and in the printing of it, which caused an apathy in many of the learned to apply themselves to its study. There are, therefore, many remotely-ancient authentic histories and precious documents of this country buried in oblivion.

“ The motives that induced the author to undertake this work were to revive this excellent and appropriate language, and to adduce undeniable proofs that learning, arts and sciences flourished in this country when the adjacent nations were immersed in ignorance.

“ He does not presume that his undertaking is near being perfect or truly erudite, but considers it to contain more of the systematic mode of the Syntax of the Irish language than any other work hitherto written or printed.

“ And through consideration of his being a foreigner, in case that blunders or errors should be discovered therein, he hopes, that they shall be passed over in silence, rather than be criticised and censured in public as faults.

“ Accept, therefore, from a good will, this little present, by which the author does not intend more than to give some knowledge of their ancient mother-tongue to those who are ignorant of it, and to the learned in other languages; but particularly, to stimulate the literati of Ireland to give a better and more perfect work of this kind.”

The Author.

Dublin, Mid-month of spring, 1773.

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proved edition was published in 1782, octavo, with an “ Essay on the Celtic language, shewing the importance of the Ibero-Celtic or Irish dialect to students in history, antiquity, and the Greek and Roman classics.”—The antiquary and scholar are referred to the work itself for this curious Essay, as it does not come properly within the limits of the present disquisition.

The Grammar contains XX chapters.—The 1st treats learnedly of the language of the ancient Irish, and of the Ogham, which last is contrasted with the Runic Ogham.—The British and Irish are proved to be of the same Celtic descent, which being a dialect of the Hebrew, like the Phœnician, is the reason why the Irish language retains many British words in their purity. It is stated, that the whole language appears to be no other than the Scytho-Celtic refined by the Phœnicians and Carthaginians who settled in Ireland at an early period. The Ogham is treated of minutely and satisfactorily, and compared with the British Ogham. In this chapter he displays much learning in treating of the ancient writings, and even of the materials upon which they were written.

The 2d chapter treats of the Alphabet according to the *Uraicept na n-Eigean* which has been mentioned in a preceding page. The ancient Alphabet is given according to Forchern the author of the *Uraicept*. The names of the letters and of the diphthongs, according to this ancient Grammarian, were called after twenty-five of the most learned and celebrated masters of the 72, who are said to have assisted at the school on the plains of Shenaar, having been assembled for the purpose of adjusting languages after the confusion of tongues and the dispersion of mankind. It is said by Forchern that each letter has been invented by the person whose name it bears. The learned author also gives the Beith-luis-nion Alphabet, according to O’Flaherty from

the Book of Leacan, in which the names of the letters are borrowed from trees.

The 3d chapter contains Remarks on the letters of the Irish Alphabet.—In this chapter the commutability of the letters is treated of; and it is stated that this property is not peculiar to Irish alone, it being common to all the other ancient languages. The sounds of the letters, and the denominations and classes in Prosody to which each letter belongs, are also mentioned.

The 4th chapter treats of Pronunciation and Orthography. He refutes the objections preferred against the pronunciation of our Language, as many words are pronounced differently from their orthography. He shews the mutability of pronunciation, and that letters are arbitrary signs, which alter in sound when they change situation or become associated with others of different power and organ. He asserts the superiority of the Irish over all the other Celtic dialects in tracing the Etymologies of words, as it preserves the radical letter of the word in inflection.

The 5th chapter treats of the modern Alphabet. It shews the number, order, names and pronunciation of the Letters. The Vowels with their classification and correspondence in orthography, and their combination into Diphthongs and Triphthongs.—He shews that the vowel terminations of the Irish Language are twenty-three. He then treats of the consonants, their number, sounds and classification into *mutable* and *immutable*. The Pronunciation of the secondary mutes or mutable consonants, called also *aspirated*, is next pointed out. Lastly, Double Letters, Eclipsis and Suppression of Consonants are treated of. In these he has followed the Grammarians who preceded him, viz. the Author of the Uraicept, O'Molloy, Lluyd, Mac Curtin, and Doctor O'Brien in his remarks on the letters throughout his Irish-English Dictionary.

The 6th chapter analyzes the Parts of Speech. He says the ancient Irish like the Hebrews reckoned but three, viz. Noun—Pronoun—Verb. The moderns nine, as the English, &c.

Of the Article.—Its influence and government on the initials of Nouns and Adjectives.—Its declension. He explodes all those words called articles by other grammarians, except the definite article *a*n, from that rank.

The 7th chapter.—Of the separate Particles, which include Adverbs, Prepositions, Conjunctions and Interjections, which are indeclinable. Of these he has given long catalogues.

The 8th chapter.—Of the Particles and Negatives. These are called by him after the former grammarians consignificative Particles, or inseperable Prepositions, used in composition with significant attributive words. They are called consignificative, because they are said to have no meaning except when associated with other words that are significant. Here the formation of Irish words of the derivative kind is investigated.—Of the Noun Substantive and Adjective. The remarks which I have made on Mac Curtin's treatment of this part of Grammar are applicable to this, as Vallancey has copied, in a great measure, his words concerning the Rules respecting Genders, and the Declensions of Nouns and Adjectives. Finding certain Adjectives irregular in their comparison, which are also irregular in all the European languages as well as in the Irish; this circumstance he attributes to their being derived from the Celtic, in which it exists.

The 9th chapter.—Of the Pronoun. First of the Compound Pronouns, and their being a kind peculiar to the Irish, having them above those which are common to other languages. They are reflective and emphatic when they take an encrease. He asserts that they have not been explained by any Irish Grammarian before himself, which extremely embarrassed the learner. This strictly is not the

case. Mac Curtin has given them, but as the Dative and Ablative cases of the Personal and Possessive Pronouns, which are coalesced with their several prepositions. Mac Curtin has not, however, explained them so fully as in the present grammar, nor did he make a separate class of them. Next, Personals are treated of.

The 10th chapter treats of the increase of the Pronoun with Rules where and when the encrease should take place.

The 11th chapter treats of the Relatives.

The 12th chapter, of the Pronominal articles.

The 13th chapter treats of the Verb, of which it is stated that there are five kinds, viz. active, passive, impersonal, auxiliary and neuter. Its accidents are Person, Number, Tense and Mood. The Persons are three, as in the Pronouns ;—the Numbers two ;—Tenses three, i. e. Present, Past and Future ; and the Moods two only, viz. the Indicative and the Imperative, as in the Hebrew. In this assertion, concerning the Moods I dissent from him ; because his practice is contrary to his position ; for he uses other moods in conjugation, but chiefly, because other moods are essential to the language to express the volitions and perceptions of the soul.—He gives the conjugation of the auxiliary verb *bġō be*, and treats of other auxiliary impersonal verbs with much skill and acuteness.

The 14th chapter treats of Auxiliary Verbs in a more copious manner than any of the former Grammars.

The 15th chapter treats of the Impersonal Verbs.—He has the credit of being the first Grammarian that has treated of these in a satisfactory manner, although they are confessedly the most difficult part of our language, and the description given of them by O'Molloy, Lluyd and Mac Curtin, though the first and latter were natives, was discouraging to learners. In the present Grammar the author assures us, and truly so, that “ they are not so numerous or more difficult than those of the Latin, French or English.” Having conjugated

the Irregular Verbs, he gives a synopsis of them, and also of the Auxiliary Verbs.—He treats of Reciprocal Verbs, and states their being common to this language as well as to the Hebrew, and gives examples.

The 16th chapter treats of the Irregular Verbs in an original and superior manner. These the preceding Grammarians had forborne to analyze, and notwithstanding the discouraging description given of this class of verbs by them, our author has succeeded in unfolding their various anomalies. Succeeding Grammarians are indebted to him in this department of Grammar.

The 17th chapter treats of Regular Verbs Active with the manner of forming the tenses, persons, numbers and moods.—Of the Relative before Verbs.—Conjugates a regular Active Verb in the active voice according to modern Grammarians.—Examples of the Passive Voice according to the same Authors. Here he closes his investigations respecting Etymology, which he has elucidated with deep penetration, skill and acuteness. He has cleared up many difficulties, which were until then stumbling blocks in the way of learning our language.

The 18th chapter contains Syntax, which is briefly explained in 12 Rules. This part has been better elucidated by succeeding writers.

The two last chapters contain Exercises, Extracts, Rules for reading the Irish characters, and the Ligatures or Abbreviations as used by ancient and modern Irish writers. Thus finishes the Grammar of this learned and generous native of England, the benefactor and vindicator of our language and antiquities. Would that his talented countrymen were so divested of prejudice against our language and ancient literature, and would treat them with the same honest and honourable candour as this worthy individual has done. His work is one of considerable learning, more theoretical than practical, and better adapted for the

Etymologist in tracing the affinities of words than for the immediate learner. The practical part, with the exception of the irregular verbs, is taken from the writers who preceded him. This Gentleman, who, "like Pythagoras of old, left his native land, to visit the seat of ancient learning, and to recover the wisdom of former days," is entitled to the gratitude and praise of that country for whose Literature he has done so much by his writings. Since the second Edition of his Grammar no less than four similar publications have appeared, which shall now be introduced in regular order to the attention of the reader.

Ὑπαγεῖς καὶ ῥαεὶς.—A GRAMMAR OF THE IRISH
LANGUAGE—DUBLIN, 1808,

Published in octavo under the fictitious signature E. O. C. ; but the author was William Halliday, a native of Dublin, and a singularly gifted youth, who not only compiled this Grammar, but published the first Volume of a most excellent Translation of Keating's History of Ireland, with the original, on collateral pages. He also proceeded on a Lexicon of the Language, which he would have published, but was prevented by a premature death at the early age of 23. Had this young gentleman lived, he would most probably have achieved more for the ancient literature of Ireland than any other individual of his time. His early display of talents and deep knowledge of the Greek, Latin and some of the Oriental Languages, joined with unwearied antiquarian research, and an enthusiastic zeal for devoting his talents to the service of his country, would have rendered him one of its brightest literary ornaments.—Of this the works which he has left behind him bear ample testimony.

His Grammar, which alone can be noticed here, is dedicated to

the Highland Societies of London and Edinburgh. The Introduction is a learned dissertation on the language which the work analyzes.—He adduces the testimonies of the most eminent men in the walks of Literature respecting the originality, antiquity and utility of our language, and refutes the charges which ignorance, prejudice and misrepresentation have made against it. He exults in the prospect, which presented itself before him, of seeing his native language and literature restored to their former celebrity. He earnestly entreats the Irish and Scotch, as descended from the same stock, to unite their endeavours in reviving the Gaelic as their common language. He concludes by an address, in the words of Hugh Mac Curtin, to the generous natives of England, to give us their confidence and affection. This short introduction does equal honour to the head and heart of the writer.

The Grammar is divided into five parts. The first part treats of Pronunciation and Orthography, and very ably, if we except the rejection of *aoi*, *ea*, and *io*, and for them substituting *aj*, *ē* and *j*; as *ajbneas* for *aoibneas*, joy; *ʎēr* for *ʎean*, a man; *ʎen* for *ʎean*, old; *mjñ* for *mjoñ*, small, &c.—*cjñca* for *cjoñca*, guilt or crime. These words, it is true, sometimes occur so written in very ancient manuscripts, but that mode is so antiquated, that it would now be as unintelligible to the generality of Irish readers, as the orthography of Chaucer would be to the modern English.

Part II.—Treats of the Parts of speech, which are enumerated nine, viz. Article, Noun, Adjective, Pronoun, Verb, Adverb, Preposition, Conjunction, Interjection. Here he varies from the printed grammars, except Vallancey's, that have preceded him, which limit them to seven, as they have differed from the more ancient Grammarians, who admitted but three. He treats of Aspiration and Eclipsis under the head of Etymology, though, in my opinion, they

belong to Prosody, their office being, in the initials of words, to point out the genders, with the definite and indefinite states of the Noun and Adjective, and the tenses and moods of verbs. But aspiration in the body of a word is used, as appears to me, for the sake of euphony.—Of the Article.—This part of speech is treated differently from the former Grammarians in their treatment of Etymology, i. e. in admitting but one Article, viz. *an the*.—Under this head is given the influence or government of the article in the various classes of the initial letters of Nouns, and the changes to which it is subject in the Scotch dialect of our language are shewn. The treatment of this properly belongs to Syntax.—Nouns—The accidents of a noun according to him are Gender, Declension, Case and Number. Person is omitted, but it is, perhaps, included in Declension. To these, in my opinion, should be added *Increase*, which is used for the sake of Emphasis. In the second Rule for distinguishing the genders of nouns, Diminutives in *ín* are stated to be feminine; Mac Curtin makes them masculine.—See the preceding remarks on that point of Mac Curtin's Grammar, page 19.

On the subject of Declension Mr. Halliday differs materially from Mac Curtin and the other Grammarians who preceded him. He admits three classes of nouns, forming seven Declensions, whilst the other Grammarians have adopted five only. On this important part of Grammar, our Author has approached a perfect system, and has given a strong proof of his intellectual powers by the plan which he has adopted, and the clear view he has taken of this hitherto difficult part of Irish Grammar. It is manifest that he did not rely on the Grammars of his Predecessors, but that he thought for himself, and was master of his subject. The declensions of Adjectives he has reduced to the same order as those of the Nouns, and

and has shewn their comparison regular and irregular. The numerals are treated of both in their ordinal and cardinal states.

Pronouns.—These he very properly divides into seven classes, Personal, Possessive, Demonstrative, Interrogative, Indefinite and Compound, which he shews to have a simple and an emphatic form. This part of Grammar he has also very ably discussed, with, perhaps, the exception of the orthography of words consisting of the Diphthongs noticed in the first part of the Grammar.—**Verb.**—Here but one conjugation is adopted and six moods, viz. Indicative, Imperative, Subjunctive, Conditional, Consuetudinal and Infinitive.—In these he varies from Mac Curtin in admitting the Infinitive, substituting the Subjunctive for the Potential and rejecting the Deprecative.—The simple and emphatic forms of the verb are very properly shewn.—The tenses are three, Present, Past and Future. The auxiliary verb *bʃō* is conjugated through all its variations of moods and tenses.—This is followed by examples of conjugation in the active and passive voices.—Rules are given for the formation of the tenses and the several Persons in each mode, with a synoptic table of two regular verbs. Irregular verbs are conjugated and a list given of those which are impersonal and defective, but there is still room for improvement on this subject.—**Adverbs.**—Of these he gives a long list together with adverbial expressions, which he recommends to be committed to memory by the learner. The component parts of the complex adverbs admit of further investigation.—**Prepositions** are divided into proper and improper. These also admit of further explanation, and I can affirm, from some few essays made on the subject, that their theory is very curious, if pursued according to Horne Tooke's system in his “*Diversions of Purley*.”—**Interjections.**—These would also bear similar investigation, as being expressive of the various passions, sensations and emotions of man. Conjun-

tions.—These require to be classed, and their respective offices pointed out with reference to the verb, in the conjunctive and deprecatative modes.

PART III. SYNTAX.—This part of Grammar is divided into Concord (in which Mac Curtin is followed) and Government. The collocation of words in a sentence is slightly treated of.—On the whole, his System of Syntax is an excellent one, though in some respects, it is susceptible of improvement.—It is followed by various exemplifications of the Rules.

PART IV. treats of PROSODY, in much the same manner as had been previously done by O'Molloy, Lluyd and Vallancey.—Prosaic Prosody still requires elucidation.—This, as yet, has not been sufficiently investigated, and requires the future Grammarian's attention.

The Vth and concluding part embraces the Contractions and Ogham.—The former are reduced to a very ingenious scale.—The latter is not treated so diffusely as by Mac Curtin and Vallancey.—These are followed by a vocabulary of the Gaelic language, with some exceptions, shewing their Genders and Declensions. The Grammar closes with a melancholy verse often subjoined to Irish MSS. which was but too prematurely applicable to the ingenious author, and a few corresponding lines from a Persian Poet in the original which he has translated.—This Grammar bears evident marks of talent, and so far as it has gone has nearly reached perfection.

NEILSON'S IRISH GRAMMAR.—DUBLIN, 1808.

This is, “An Introduction to the Irish Language, in three Parts. I. An Original and Comprehensive Grammar.—II. Familiar Phrases and Dialogues—III. Extracts from Irish Books and Manu-

scripts in the original characters, with copious Tables of the Contractions.”

Part I.—Orthography.—Here the author endeavours to convey the Irish sounds of the letters by means of those corresponding in English, but has omitted several peculiar to many of them. He has not been very felicitous in his English correspondences.—These are followed by the aspirated consonants and a classification of the letters into vowels and consonants. The former are subdivided, according to the preceding Grammarians, into *broad* and *slender*—the latter into *mutable* and *immutable*.—The correspondence of vowels in spelling is pointed out, and it is stated to have been unknown in early times. The sounds of the Consonants mutable and immutable, and of the Diphthongs and Triphthongs are then explained. Eclipsis and Accent are next treated of, followed by observations on reading Irish, and a catalogue of words to illustrate the various sounds of the Letters. This part of Grammar is by no means sufficiently illustrated.

Etymology.—In treating this department Doctor Neilson omits giving a definition of it, though usual with other Grammarians; nor has he informed us how many parts of speech in our language, though they appear in the sequel when he comes to treat of them in order. He commences, as is usual, with the *article*, which is only *one* (corresponding with the definite in English,) the declension of which he shews. General Rules for genders of nouns follow, some of which are not correct. The cases he lays down to be six, as in Latin, and on them he throws but little light. The Declensions are stated to be only four *terminational*, with a few *Heteroclites*. He first declines without the Article, then shews the manner of declining with it, and points out the Initial Changes of Nouns. On this department of grammar he is remarkably clear, and has nearly reached the wished for point of fixing the Declen-

sions. On the Adjectives he is equally explicit, dividing them into four declensions, like Nouns, and declines a few of them, accompanied with Nouns. He then shews the comparison of regular and irregular Adjectives, and gives the Numerals both in their ordinal and cardinal forms. These he has treated in an able manner.—The *Pronouns* are divided into Personal, Possessive, Relative, Interrogative, Demonstrative and Compound. Their Declensions, and the Increase peculiar to them, are shewn. In this department there is room for additional observation ; but on the whole it is not badly treated. He reckons three kinds of Verbs—active, passive, neuter or reflected :—Seven variations of the Verb as to signification, viz. Imperative and Infinitive moods, Participles, Indicative, Potential, Optative and Subjunctive moods.—Four tenses, Present, Preter, Consuetudinal and Future. He here makes a tense of the Consuetudinal, of which the other grammarians make a mode. Having given examples of conjugating the different kinds of Verbs, Rules are laid down for the formation of the moods and tenses, which would better precede the conjugation, or immediately before the example. Having treated of the regular, he proceeds to conjugate the irregular verbs. On these he is clear, but his orthography in the inflections, I consider not altogether correct. The Infinitive mood is more copiously explained than by other grammarians, but in general his treatment of the Verb admits of improvement.—*Adverbs*.—He shews the manner of their formation from other words in the Language, and by a combination of words how to form adverbial expressions or phrases. On this part much more might be done.—The *Prepositions* are simple and compound.—The theory of these and of the other particles, if properly investigated would be curious.—The Conjunctions are divided into Copulative, Disjunctive and Conditional ; but they admit of various other

classes, and their theory might be pursued much farther than has been done.—*Interjections*.—On these more explanation would be desirable. Taking his Grammar, however, altogether, it is, as a practical one, preferable to Vallancey's, though the latter is superior in point of Theory and Investigation. To him the Doctor and other subsequent grammarians are much indebted, particularly on the irregular verbs.—*Syntax*.—On concord and government he has bestowed much pains, and has been successful in the elucidation of Syntax by rules and examples. On these points, he is superior to any of his predecessors. The second and third parts of the Grammar contain Dialogues which are well chosen, and notes which are useful. Extracts from Irish Books and Manuscripts in the original character, with English translations are given, and finishes with a display of manuscript contractions and Ogham explanations. In the latter Vallancey is far superior.

It may be inferred from the system of this Grammar, that the author supposes the learner to be previously acquainted with the terms of the art in some other language. This caused him to omit the definitions of the grammatical terms of our language, which may be considered a defect, as the latter vary, in many instances, from those peculiar to other languages. The Syntax is the most valuable part of this work. Etymology is also well explained, but on Orthography he is not to be followed. The language is well adapted to the subject.

Doctor Neilson long resided as a classical teacher in Dundalk. He is known as the author of introductory books in the Greek language. His knowledge of the Irish procured him a kind of lectureship in that town, in consequence of which he delivered occasional moral discourses or sermons in that Language.—He was afterwards chosen classical teacher of the Belfast Academical Irish Institution,

a situation which he filled with honour to himself and advantage to that patriotic and valuable establishment. His death is attributed, with every appearance of justice, to excessive application to his favourite literary pursuits. His labours for the preservation and improvement of our language deserve considerable praise.

O'BRIEN's IRISH GRAMMAR.—DUBLIN, 1809.

The author of this Grammar was the Rev. Paul O'Brien, Professor of Irish in the College of Maynooth. He entitled his work "A Practical Grammar of the Irish Language," and commenced by an Introduction, which points out the tendency and system of his grammar, and the requisites in addition to it for completing a course of instruction in the language, viz. a book of Exercises, another of Dialogues, and a Dictionary. He offers his services, if at any future period his labors might be of use towards the accomplishment of what was wanting in that respect. This is followed by a poetical address to the four provinces of Ireland, in which the neglected state of our literature is deplored in pathetic strains.

Orthography.—In this department the learned Professor commences with the ancient Alphabet according to the Ὑπαγεγραμμένη, as given by Vallancey, with another from an old copy of the same, and a third Alphabet from the Book of Leacan. These are followed by the modern Alphabet, a classification of the Letters and the vowel sounds, with their quantities, corresponding English sounds and Irish examples. The vowels have many other sounds besides these which he has noticed in the table of their quantities. Between some of the corresponding English sounds of the Irish consonants

and the Irish Examples there is no coincidence ; moreover, each of them has a two-fold sound, which is not noticed, except τ and γ .—The aspirated mutables are treated of without any considerable error. The immutable consonants are treated of correctly, except where he states that “ The immutables at the beginning of words which have a reference either to objects of the feminine gender or to objects or things of the plural number are pronounced double.” This has been asserted by many of his predecessors, but with deference to such respectable authorities, they have, in my opinion, no variation of sound but what they obtain from the vowels with which they are combined in a syllable, like the other consonants. In speaking of double letters he has omitted $\gamma\gamma$; and $\tau\tau$ he stated were used only in the beginning of words, but he forgot that they were written by the ancients, in the middle and at the end of words, as $\mu\alpha\gamma\tau\tau\eta$, $\tau\gamma\gamma\sigma\eta\sigma\tau\tau$, &c. Diphthongs and Triphthongs have a greater variety of sounds than he has mentioned, and some of the English correspondences are insufficient to convey the Irish sounds.—The accent of the vowels is passed over slightly, but the influence of consonants on each other, commonly called Eclipsis, is correctly treated, though not so diffusely as by some of his predecessors.

Of Parts of Speech—he reckons nine, viz. Article, Noun, Pronoun, Verb, Participle, Adverb, Conjunction, Preposition and Interjection.—He admits but one article corresponding to the definite article *the* in English. With respect to this part of speech, I cannot agree with Doctor O’Brien, when he asserts, that “ in the genitive plural of Nouns, beginning with a vowel or with the influenced letters τ and γ , the article becomes $\eta\alpha\eta$, &c.” I rather consider the last η to be a servile letter belonging to the initial vowel of the word, or to τ and γ as their eclipsing letter, having no connexion whatever, except by juxta position, with the article. It is,

however, so used, but improperly, in the Scotch dialect. Treating of the Nouns, Doctor O'Brien, from an old Manuscript called "Kilian's miscellaneous collection," asserts "the ancient Irish never inflected their nouns by *Terminations* but by *Initials*." On this authority he forms the declensions, which are three in number, according to the changes which nouns undergo in their initials. It were to be wished that he had adduced instances, that nouns do not undergo terminational changes to express the cases; for such instances would shew the absurdity of the assertion. This is quite contrary to all preceding grammarians, who have founded the declensions on the terminational changes. There is an error respecting the doubling of *t*, *n* and *p* in sound when they begin a word having reference to the female kind in order to distinguish it from the male. This error I have already pointed out, in treating of the mutable consonants. The rules for the distinction of genders are not sufficiently comprehensive; but his remarks on number are original and curious. When the numeral, he says, attends the noun plurality does not appear in the form of the noun until it goes to the number three; in consequence of which some might be apt to consider the Irish to be like the Greek with respect to the Dual number.—The form of inflected nouns, with rules and examples for their declensions are next given. And though the latter are termed *Initial*, yet we find the termination to change in the various cases, which are six, as in the Latin, although he uses only two cases in the first specimens of declension, which he has given. After these follows a long "Table for finding the Genitive Singular, the Nominative and Genitive Plural of nouns of either gender" according to the termination of the Nominative Singular, with examples. Another immediately follows of *Heteroclites* ending in vowels, which are treated of very accurately and minutely, as are also the *Initial* changes

of nouns when preceded by the Possessive Pronouns, a point not noticed, in his manner, by any former grammarian.

The Adjectives are described in a more satisfactory way than by other grammarians ; but the manner of forming the Nominative Plural of Adjectives, the Nominative Singular of which has its terminational vowel broad, and other cases, are objectionable.—The Pronouns are stated to be of six kinds, Personal, Possessive, Demonstrative, Relative, Interrogative and Indefinite. Compound Pronouns are omitted as a class, and properly so, being but the Dative and Ablative cases of the Personal and Possessive. This part of speech is well treated of.—Verbs.—The accidents of all regular verbs are, Voices two, active and passive ; Moods five, imperative, indicative, potential, conditional and infinitive ; Tenses three, present, past and future ; Numbers two, singular and plural ; Persons three ; Participles three, present, past and future ; Conjugations two.—The Verbs are of four kinds, active, passive, impersonal and neuter. Of the Verbs both regular and irregular he has treated at great length and well, except in the Orthography of the inflections.—The Adverbs are also treated of very well, though with respect to them much more could be said.—The Prepositions and Conjunctions also admit of further elucidation ; but the investigation of Interjections is curious. At the end of Etymology the various meanings of the letter *a* are given.

The Syntax on the whole is excellent. The remainder of the Grammar is taken up with an explanation of Grammatical terms, the Ogham, Contractions and Notes.

This Grammar, speaking generally, is a good practical treatise, containing many original and valuable remarks. It is a production of the worthy Professor's old age, and not to be taken as a fair specimen of the vigor of his intellect or the extent of his learning.

It seems to have been given to the world because something of the kind was expected from his high character as an Irish scholar. Did the various duties of the Rev. Mr. Loftus, his learned successor in the Irish Chair of Maynooth, permit him to favour the world with the result of his deep and valuable researches in our language, our literature would be considerably benefitted.

The three last preceding Grammars were published within the short space of two years, 1808—1809.* Their respective authors have since paid the debt of nature. Truly grateful to them should we be for the assistance they have afforded us in the study of our language. And if they have not succeeded to the full in its elucidation, yet they have done much, and have left the less to be done by their successors. To them I feel truly grateful. If, in my observations on their works, I have been obliged to dissent from some of their views, I did so with the utmost respect, and have not, I trust, indulged in a single expression which would derogate from their merits, or hazarded an opinion to which, if living, they would not assent. Because their intentions were patriotic, and they were

* In 1815 a small Irish grammatical tract was published, entitled "*Foroideas Ghnaith-Ghaoidheilge na h-Eireand*. An Introduction to the knowledge of the Irish language as now spoken; containing a complete Analysis of the declinable parts of speech, with the pronunciation of each Irish word employed in illustration, so far as could be effected by the substitution of English characters: Systematically arranged and methodically disposed in fourteen short Synoptic tables. To which is added, I. Examples of the Gaelic or Caledonian conjugations, and a curious specimen of the Erse of the 16th century, from the Rev. Alexander Steward's Grammar, 2d Edition, Edinburgh, 1812." By Patrick Lynch, Secretary to the Gaelic Society of Dublin.—The chief object of this little tract appears to have been the instruction of students in the correct pronunciation of the Irish language as now spoken. It begins with the Alphabet, of which the figures and names of the letters in Irish and English are given with the pronunciation, and Hebrew and Greek names of their corresponding letters in those languages. The antiquity of the names and origin of our letters are also shewn. It answers the purpose for which it was intended, and will be found useful to persons not capable of speaking the language when learning it.

incapable of those selfish considerations which would defend oversights at the expence of the cause in which they so zealously laboured. I now proceed to the last published Grammar of our language ; and it gives me pleasure, that the author is living to vindicate his opinions if wrongfully charged with error. For my part, I shall chearfully and thankfully acknowledge my error when it shall be pointed out, nor shall I consider it unreasonable if in justice it be meted to me as I deal to others. I am not so vain as to pass over in myself those faults which I censure in my neighbour, or so forgetful of the admonition.—“ Thou hypocrite, cast out first the beam out of thine own eye, and then shalt thou see clearly to cast the mote out of thy brother’s eye.”—*Math.* vii. 5.

O'REILLY's IRISH GRAMMAR.—DUBLIN, 1821.

This is entitled “ A compendious Irish Grammar,” and is annexed to the author’s Irish-English Dictionary. It is evidently the compilation of one ignorant of Irish as a living language, and acquainted with it only through the medium of books. In the preface the author says, “ In my grammar I have ventured to deviate a little from those who have gone before me, with what degree of propriety it is for others to decide.” Availing ourselves of that freedom, we shall now proceed to the task ; and first of the 1st chapter, comprizing Orthography. Of the Letters only a mere classification is given, and the reason stated for not treating of their sounds and powers is, that so much had been before said on that subject, but little was then necessary to be said by him. Even that “ little that was then necessary,” and which, it is presumed, ought to be what the other grammarians have left unsaid, the author has forgotten. The cause of this omission is evident. It is impossible for any

person, not knowing Irish but as a dead language, to give a true representation or description of its sounds. It is asserted that “The rule *Caol le caol* and *leathan le leathan*, has been carried too far,” but to what extent is not shewn ; a few examples, indeed, are given, but not at all sufficient or satisfactory for a learner. It is also asserted that “The vowels of each class, when unaccented, may be indifferently written for the other.” This is too indefinite. The author should have known, that though they are sometimes commuted by writers, a grammarian is bound to point out the propriety or impropriety of so doing, and whether custom or analogy should be followed. He then proceeds : “It is impossible to give a correct representation of the sounds of Irish diphthongs and triphthongs by any usual combination of English vowels.” He should have given an instance of this ; it would have been a better proof than mere assertion : but this he would have found rather difficult. I do not know any vowel sound, in our language, that cannot be represented by English vowel sounds either pure or mixed. If it were said that some sounds, peculiar to a few of our consonants, could not be represented by any sound in the English language, the assertion would have been well founded, such as the flat and thick sounds of *l*, *n*, *o* and *g*, and also of *ng*, &c. when initial, and of *n* slender, when it happens to follow *j* in the termination of a syllable.

Chapter the third treats “Of the consonants and their divisions, combination and influence on each other :”—It is asserted that “*cc*, *ff*, *pp* and *tt* are never used but in the beginning of words, except *cc*, which is sometimes used in the termination.”—But *tt* often occur in ancient manuscripts, as well at the end as in the middle of words. On Orthography this Grammar is entirely defective.

Etymology—1st, of the Parts of Speech. The author agrees with his Predecessors in shewing that the Antients reckoned but three Parts of speech ; but he says that the Moderns reckon ten,—Article, Noun

Adjective, Pronoun, Verb, Participle, Adverb, Preposition, Interjection and Conjunction. Of these one has been here for the first time added ; for nine is the most that any of the former Grammarians has admitted. He has treated correctly of the Article, but otherwise of the Noun.—“ To Nouns,” he says, “ belong, number, gender, case and declension.” He should have added *person*. With respect to genders the errors of former Grammarians are servilely copied. Our remarks, when speaking of Mac Curtin’s Grammar, page 19, respecting the Rules for the distinction of Genders, may here be applied with every propriety.

The views taken of Case and Declension, with respect to the impropriety of making the systems of the Greek or Latin Grammar a standard for the Irish, are excellent and correct, (but not original) except that the vocative is omitted, and the accusative, which could be dispensed with, (being always like the nominative) is retained. His system of making the initials of nouns the foundation of the Declensions, in imitation of Doctor O’Brien, is quite absurd, as the Table of final variations subjoined to both Grammars sufficiently prove. There are so many errors in his remarks on the Declensions, down to the table of terminational variations, that I very reluctantly undergo the painful task of exposing them to notice, but I do so in order to warn students against a corrupt explanation of our language.

In remark 1, on Nouns, the assertion is not correct, except when the article is expressed. The same may be said of number 2.—In number 3, he excepts those only beginning in r , but he should also except these beginning with v and z . It is here stated that mutable consonants should be aspirated in the Nominative, Dative and Accusative cases singular of nouns feminine. The Dative should not be aspirated but eclipsed if the article be expressed ;

but when the article is withdrawn it takes aspiration : as, $\tau\omicron\acute{\epsilon}\eta\mu$ to sense ; $\tau\omicron\sigma'\eta\zeta\text{-}\epsilon\eta\mu$ to the sense.

4. “ Nouns of the masculine gender beginning with aspirable consonants, except ς , must preserve their natural sounds in the nominative and accusative singular and be aspirated in the genitive and dative. In all the cases of the Plural except the genitive, the initial preserves its natural power ; but in the genitive it must be eclipsed, unless it be an m or an ς .” Here he should have excepted in the Genitive singular, those that begin with τ or τ , and the dative requires éclipse instead of aspiration. In the Plural he should have excepted the vocative, for it takes aspiration.—It is again stated, that “ When ς is the initial of feminine nouns, and followed by a vowel, or by t or η , (and he should have added η) it requires τ prefixed in all the cases of the singular except the genitive.” This is erroneous, for the vocative takes aspiration. “ In the genitive singular, and all the cases of the plural, it preserves its natural powers.” This also is erroneous, for the vocative plural requires aspiration ; as for the first instance, $\alpha\acute{\iota}\upsilon\lambda$ O eye ; for the second, $\alpha\acute{\iota}\upsilon\lambda\epsilon$, O eyes.—The same remark is applicable to ς , in the next paragraph to the above, when it is the initial of masculine nouns ; as $\alpha\acute{\iota}\alpha\sigma\gamma\alpha\lambda$, O world, $\alpha\acute{\iota}\alpha\sigma\gamma\alpha\lambda\tau\alpha$, O worlds.

He says that “ Nouns beginning with τ or τ , having the article prefixed, suffer no aspiration, but are eclipsed in the genitive plural.” This is not so. The vocative singular and plural require aspiration ; as $\alpha\tau\omicron\eta\epsilon$, O man, $\alpha\tau\epsilon\eta\eta\tau\omicron$, O fire, $\alpha\tau\alpha\sigma\eta\epsilon$, O men, $\alpha\tau\epsilon\eta\tau\epsilon$, O fires ?—He says “ Thus we see that the initial variation of nouns serve to express their gender, number and case.”—It expresses, however, something more, but in conjunction with other words and even then only partially. Of what use are terminational changes ? —It is stated, that “ t , η , η suffer no change in writing when

they are the initials of nouns ; but the same accidents that cause a variation in the sound of the other consonants cause a variation in the pronunciation of these letters according to the gender of the noun to which they belong." This is not correct, for it is the denomination of the vowel that follows them immediately, i. e. *broad* or *slender*, that causes a variation in their sounds, and this variation is also peculiar to the other consonants.—This error the author has copied from former grammarians, without seeming to have been aware of its impropriety. We are further told " That some writers make use of eclipsis instead of aspiration in the dative singular of their nouns if the initial be susceptible of eclipsis. Thus for ፬ዕን ረገላኝ they write ፬ዕን ረርገላኝ ."—But we are not informed which should be used according to the analogy of the language. This indecision is unpardonable in a grammarian.—Further—" Regular nouns ending with an aspirated ፬ or ፭ *seldom vary* their terminations in any of the cases of the singular number." On the contrary, it is *seldom they do not vary*. The words ባላ፬ , ፻፲ላ፭ , ፭፻ላ፬ , ፻፭ , and many others, change in the genitive.—" The quantity or length of the vowels or diphthongs in the nominative singular is preserved throughout all the other cases in both numbers."—Erroneous ; for amongst others the quantity of ፻፲ in the word *፹፻፲፱ a lump*, is not the same in the Genitive singular or nominative plural, which is ፹፻፲፱ , and ፻ long in ባላ፻ , *top*, is changed into ፻ short in the nominative Plural ባላ፻፶፱ , &c.—He asserts that, " In all regular nouns the dative singular terminates like the nominative."—Those of the masculine gender do, but those of the feminine should terminate like the Genitive by cutting off the increase ; as, *Nom.* ፭፻፲፱ . *Gen.* ፭፻፲፱፻ *Dat.* ፬፻፲፱፻ .—In these rules for the inflections of nouns this grammarian, on the whole, with very few exceptions, is faulty—but this is not so easily

perceivable as illustrative examples are not given, an omission justly reprehensible in a treatise of this nature.

In Table No. 1. with respect to gender and inflection I find twenty-three errors in the modes of declining the noun and article; and in Table No. 2. half that number. These are so evident to the Irish scholar who has "the least smattering of Grammar," that I deem it unnecessary to waste more words on them here. Treating of the formation of the cases of regular nouns, it is, stated, that "Nouns having *ēa* or *eu* in the nominative singular make *eoī* in the genitive as *meaī*, a finger, *ḡḡēul*, a story, become upon variation *meoīī*, *ḡḡeoīī*."—In poetry these words with a few others may take that form, but in prose and conversation they are written and pronounced *mēīī*, *ḡḡēīī*. The student may ask what form do *ḡēaī*, *ḡēan*, *ḡēaīc*, *ḡēanīc*, *mēuō*, *ēuō*, *ḡḡēuō*, with many more, take in the genitive singular.

Regular Nouns with the Article.—In the first Declension, *oīḡ*, a virgin, should take an encrease in the genitive singular; it should be *oīḡē* instead of *oīḡ*, as here given. The second Declension is correct; but the third requires aspiration in the vocative case (which case is omitted,) of mutable consonants, except *ḡ*, when followed by any other consonant except *l*, *n* or *ī*. The Declension and Gender of *colam* I disapprove of, although I have seen it similarly declined as a feminine noun in a manuscript treatise. Yet it is masculine, for we never say, in the nominative singular with the article prefixed, *an colam*, and even in the Dictionary following this grammar it is so marked. It is observable that between the rules and examples given in the latter for genders, and the genders themselves, as marked in the former, there is considerable variance. This is unpardonable, independently of its being attended by one of the worst consequences, that of misleading the learner. In the

exceptions to the fourth Declension τ and τ should be included ; and ς followed by η as well as by ι and μ . In the singular and plural the vocative requires aspiration, though here omitted, as remarked in the 3d Declension.—The first example of the fourth declension is also erroneous.—If the author intended $\kappa\eta\epsilon\alpha\varsigma$ to be feminine, as it is generally considered to be in the living language, the genitive should be $\eta\alpha \kappa\eta\epsilon\iota\varsigma$: if masculine, the genitive should be $\alpha\eta \kappa\eta\epsilon\alpha\varsigma\alpha$ with the article, like $\mu\epsilon\alpha\varsigma$, Gen. $\mu\epsilon\alpha\varsigma\alpha$.

Adjectives.—Speaking of adjectives he says that those “ Beginning with vowels and preceding their substantives require a τ prefixed to the nominative, *dative* and accusative cases singular masculine, and to the *genitive feminine* and to *nominative* and *dative plural of both genders*.”—This is not the fact ; for neither the dative singular masculine, the genitive singular feminine nor the nominative or dative plural of either gender takes this prefix. It is further asserted that “ Adjectives following their substantives and having mutable consonants for their initials (except ς , τ or τ following a noun ending with η ,) must be aspirated in the nominative, accusative and vocative singular feminine gender, and in the genitive, *dative* and vocative singular masculine ; in the plural number the *genitive feminine must be aspirated*, and the *genitive singular must be eclipsed*.” For the exceptions I see no necessity except ς , when followed by any consonant except ι , η or μ . These are not excepted where necessary, in the substantives. The dative singular should be eclipsed instead of being aspirated, except μ or ς followed by any consonant except ι , η or μ , as $\tau\omicron'\eta \delta\text{-}\chi\epsilon\alpha\eta \mu\text{-}\beta\eta\epsilon\acute{\alpha}\xi$, &c. In the plural number the genitive feminine and masculine must suffer eclipse instead of aspiration, as $\eta\alpha \mu\text{-}\beta\alpha\eta \mu\text{-}\beta\eta\epsilon\acute{\alpha}\xi$; and the genitive singular must not be eclipsed but aspirated in the genitive singular masculine ; as, $\alpha\eta \tau\upsilon\eta\eta\epsilon \tau\omicron\beta\eta\omicron\eta\alpha\iota\epsilon$,

առ չյի *bpeāg* ; and it retains its natural power in the genitive feminine, as *na bō bājne*.—The Grammarian immediately after says of an adjective in the masculine gender, and having a broad vowel in its termination, that “ In the nominative, dative, and accusative singular, it will take a broad encrease, and the genitive must be like the nominative singular.” This is too glaring an error to require further notice.—Again, “ Adjectives following their substantives and having an *y* for their last vowel before an immutable consonant in the nominative singular, take no change in the genitive masculine, take a *small encrease in the genitive feminine*, and in the *nominative, dative, and accusative plural of both genders*. The genitive plural is like the nominative singular.”—Not so.—All the ancient tribe of adjectives ending in *amajl* or *amyl* rise in judgment against this assertion.—In declining the two adjectives *արծ* and *Եայց* there are no less than eleven errors.—In the comparison of Adjectives—the two last forms of comparisons, said by our author to be found in our ancient manuscripts, are the same as the first, when the prepositions *Ե* *of*, and *Եր* for *Եր*, *beyond*, are separated from the comparative ; viz. first and proper comparative of *լազ*, green, is *լայք*, greener ; the second, *լայքԵ*, i. e. *լայք Ե* greener of or for ; the third form *լայիչեր*, i. e. *լայք*, greeness, and *Եր* for *Եր*, *beyond*. Let it be remembered that the comparatives of adjectives are converted into nouns by our Grammarians and Lexicographers, such as *Երիցք*, *լայք*, *բայնք* ; but very improperly, in my opinion, for *Երիցեալ*, *լայքեալ*, *բայնեալ* are the real nouns, and the true manner of forming these and all others of the same kind.—It is laid down that “ There is a superlative very common in use of the same form as the positive ; as, *լալ white*, *լոյլալ whitest*.”—It is not *whitest* but *too white* ; *լծ* signifies excess, abundance or superfluity. *Տար*, i. e. ex-

ceedingly, is a purely superlative particle, though here asserted “ to express only an eminent degree of quality.”—More could be added to the list of adjectives that are irregular in their comparison ; and much more should have been said on the subject of Adjectives in general, and their various species.

Pronouns are properly classed, and what is said of them is correct, but their theory is not elucidated, perhaps, because the author’s limits did not allow him.

Of the Verbs * the classification is correct, except that they should have been divided into *regular* and *irregular* or *defective*.—Of the auxiliary verb *bʃō* he makes five separate verbs, which in my opinion should not be, for this verb is irregular, and takes these five variations of form through its impersonal and neuter states of tense and mode ; as we have the same verb irregular in English.—He conjugates it well on the entire.—In the Rules for forming the future tense of Regular verbs active, he says : “ Sometimes *ʃ* is not used either in writing or conversation, but this is a corruption that should be rejected, except in *verbs of more than one syllable*, which never take an *ʃ* but have *eo* in their second syllable, as *εʃʃʃ* arise, *εʃʃʃεαō me* I will arise.” It is not for being of *more than one syllable*, that they take this form, for there are many verbs in the language of that description, that do not form the future in *eo* ; as *αναʃε*, *αναʃεʃεαō*, &c.—but because the analogy and genius of the language require that verbs whose second

* The author in the preface to his Dictionary, alluding to the Conjugation of Verbs, says ; “ In giving but one Conjugation to Irish verbs, I differ from Doctors Stuart and O’Brien ; but I do so upon the authority of all our ancient MSS.” From these words it might be inferred that he was the first who admitted but one Conjugation ; but in this he was anticipated by Mr. Haliday and Doctor Neilson : The former particularly, after stating that verbs have but one conjugation, says that Mr. Stewart divided them into two, adding, “ for what reason this ingenious scholar has left unexplained.”

person singular Imperative ends in ᵃᵓ (and a few other forms not necessary here to mention to prove our position) and active participle and infinitive mood end in ᵃᵓ , &c. to form the future in ᵃᵓᵃᵓ with the Pronoun subjoined or ᵃᵓᵃᵓ , &c. without the Pronoun.—“Consuetudinal mood—*Present tense* generally like the present Indicative.”—True, unless the pronoun accompany the verb, and then they differ; as, Indicative ᵃᵓᵃᵓ ᵃᵓ , Consuetudinal ᵃᵓᵃᵓ ᵃᵓ .—“Conditional mood. Has the same termination in all its persons as the Potential.”—Yes; but of very different initial inflections, which are not here shewn; and a variation of form if the verb be absolutely potential or contingently so, not pointed out in this, or in any other Irish grammar hitherto published. These in general are pretty well treated.—The Irregular verbs are declined satisfactorily.—On the Particles he does not bestow much attention, but in the little that is said, there is an error in admitting the preposition ᵃᵓ amongst those that *do not coalesce with other words* in composition. It may be asked, of what words are ᵃᵓᵃᵓ and the other persons of the *personal pronouns* compounded, when coalesced with this preposition?

Syntax.—In Rule 5 on the Article, ᵃᵓ should be excepted with ᵃᵓ . There are other inconsiderable errors under this head, which our limits prevent us from noticing.

Of Substantive and Adjective.—In Rule 1, where he mentions the infinitive of transitive verbs, he should have added the active participle.—In Rule 2, the adjective ᵃᵓᵃᵓ in the genitive plural is erroneously inflected. It is made ᵃᵓᵃᵓᵃᵓ instead of ᵃᵓᵃᵓᵃᵓ .—In Rule 3, the adjective ᵃᵓᵃᵓ is put in a masculine form in *concord* (discord rather) with a feminine noun, viz. “ ᵃᵓᵃᵓ ᵃᵓᵃᵓ ”. How these numerous errors could have been committed by a person taking upon himself to publish a book for the instruction of others, is to me inconceivable. In Rule 9, relating to numeral adjectives, he says that “ ᵃᵓ , two,

and all the multiples of ten prefixed to a noun, have the noun in the singular number, as *ḁá ḡeap* two men, *ḁa ḡeap ḁeaz* (observe, the letter *ḡ* is not aspirated in either of these examples), “ twelve men, *ḡeē cḡaḡ* twenty trees, *mle maḡcaē* a thousand horsemen. But if an adjective follows the noun, the adjective must be in the plural number, as *ḁa cḡaḡ moḡa*.”—These are glaring errors—for in the first case, the noun is in the genitive plural indefinite, being “ Twenty of trees, a thousand of horsemen ;”—and in the last the grammarian was not aware, that plurality does not commence in our noun, nor consequently in the adjective attendant on that noun, when the numeral is prefixed, until it goes as far as the number three. The example given by him, viz. *ḁá cḡaḡ moḡa*, should be *ḁá cḡaḡ mōḡa*. Moreover, he does not aspirate the *c*, which *ḁa* requires, when the initial of the noun is aspirable, a plural adjective is placed in concord with a noun in the singular number.

The preceding remarks made on the comparison of adjectives are applicable to the 10th Rule.—The Syntax of the Pronoun is properly treated, except Rule 9, on the demonstrative *ḡo*. This should, after the noun or adjective to which it has a reference, be preserved without variation as an indeclinable pronoun, and not changed into *ḡa*, *ḡi* or *ḡe*; for these are the forms of the increase of nouns, adjectives, pronouns and verbs, and should not be confounded with the demonstrative *ḡo*. The verbs are properly treated, though there is room for further illustration; as is also the remainder of Syntax. He has omitted Prosody.

My task is now completed, and on the whole I may pronounce this the most erroneous Irish grammar ever compiled. I have been particularly attentive to point out the deficiencies and errors of this work, as being the last production of the kind (except a few

elementary school books) that has appeared, in order that our language should not appear such a heap of inconsistencies, as would deter the studious from its cultivation.

Several treatises have been written on the modern Scottish dialect of the Irish language, which neither our limits nor design allow us to enter into. The best of the grammatical kind is the Rev. Mr. Stewart's Gaelic Grammar, which is deservedly admired as a critical and philosophical explanation of that dialect.

It may, and very reasonably, be expected by those who shall read the foregoing remarks, that the author of them should point out a better system of grammar than those which he has animadverted upon. The writer can assure them that he has already prepared for press a grammar both theoretical and practical, formed on the genius of the language, the result of many years consideration of the subject, which he has been deterred from publishing from the little encouragement works of that nature have met with from the public. It is evident, from the nature of many of the errors here pointed out, that they could be fully or properly discussed only in a grammar. Should any prospect even of trifling encouragement appear, the work alluded to may be published at some future period.

Having treated of the Grammars, we shall next take a survey of our Glossaries, Vocabularies and Dictionaries, in order that we may ascertain what has been achieved or left undone, and see if any mode can be pointed out for supplying any deficiencies which may appear in this department of Irish Philology.

GLOSSARIES are the first in order with respect to antiquity. Of these there are many in manuscript explaining difficult words. Some may be found in the Book of Ballimote in the possession of

the Royal Irish Academy, in the Book of the O'Kellys of Hy-Maine, lodged, I believe, in the Office of Arms, Dublin, and in other ancient vellum collections which we have seen. The principal and most copious of these is—

Sanaſán Chormaic—CORMAC'S GLOSSARY.

This work is said to have been written by Cormac Mac Cuilean, Bishop and King of Cashell, in the 9th century. It is useful in explaining old and obsolete words. He shews their Etymology, and derives many from Latin, Greek and Hebrew, giving, at the same time, examples to elucidate their meanings. Many of these examples are taken from writers, whose works have long since perished. With respect to Etymology and the interpretation of the antiquated words which it contains, as mentioned before, it is found useful ; but is defective in not comprizing the entire words of the language. The propriety of Cormac's deriving many of these words from foreign tongues may be doubted. Perhaps they might with more propriety be referred to their legitimate parent, the Celtic ; which, according to many learned writers, was in common with the Hebrew and the other Oriental languages a dialect of the original tongue, and from which the Greeks and Latins borrowed those words which bear an affinity in orthography and sense to those in the Irish. Much of Cormac's interpretation is now as obscure as the words which he explains. The latter are given according to the letters of the Alphabet, but are not in Dictionary order. This old work is highly deserving of publication.—The next Glossary which I shall notice is the

fóghu fíocál—OR O'DUGAN'S GLOSSARY.

This Glossary was written by John O'Dugan, (chief poet of the O'Kellys of Hy Maine in Connaught,) who lived in the 14th century. It is in verse, and consists of 73 *ranms* of 4 quartans each. The author was a distinguished Irish antiquary as well as poet. In this Glossary he gives the Synonyma generally understood in his time. To him some of the moderns are much indebted, and his work deserves publication with Cormac's Glossary. The other unpublished Glossaries, written by various writers, come generally under the description given of the preceding. If all were collected and printed with the above, it would be doing much for the ancient language of Ireland.

Before we proceed to the works of this nature already in print, it may be worth while to direct the attention of the student to two or three unpublished Irish Dictionaries or Vocabularies yet remaining in manuscript.* The first of these is in Latin and Irish, and was compiled in the year 1662 by the Rev. Richard Plunkett of Trim, of whom Llyud speaks in high terms of praise. It is a most valuable work. It contains copious explanations of the Latin words by a great number of Irish, and in it are to be found many words not inserted in any printed work of a similar nature. It is very scarce. The autograph is preserved in Marsh's Library, St.

* A monumental inscription in the church of Athlone informs us that Mathew de Renzie, who died in the year 1634, compiled an Irish Grammar, Dictionary and Chronicle, which it is probable were destroyed during the wars of 1641.—Mr. Philip Fitzgibbon, an eminent Irish scholar, who died in Kilkenny, in 1792, compiled an Irish Dictionary, containing upwards of 400 close quarto pages, which, with other MSS. he bequeathed to the Rev. Mr. O'Donnell, P. P. of St. John's, city of Kilkenny. This circumstance is alluded to in hopes that it may lead to a recovery of the Dictionary.

Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin. A copy is to be found in Trinity College Library, and another in the possession of the Rev. Patrick Wall, P. P. of Mothill, in the Diocese and County of Waterford, to whose kindness for the use of it I am much indebted.—The second manuscript Dictionary, alluded to, is in Irish and English. It was compiled about the year 1739 by Teige O'Neaghten, and is preserved in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin.—The third Manuscript Dictionary was compiled, in English, Latin and Irish, by a Mr. Crab, who lived near Dublin about the year 1750. Proposals and specimens of this work were printed in that year, but the author had no encouragement to proceed. It was in the Library of General Vallancey, after whose decease it was purchased for Doctor Adam Clarke, and brought to England.

I shall now return to my principal object, which is that of the printed works of this nature, and of these the first that appeared was,

foclóir nua Sanaíán nua Saoideige.

A new Vocabulary or Expositor of the Irish Language.—

OCTAVO.—LOUVAIN, 1643.

This Vocabulary was compiled by the Rev. Michael O'Clery, one of the annalists of Donegall, or the "Four masters," and an excellent scholar and antiquary. Though the number of words is few, yet it is highly estimated by Lexicographers from the propriety of the selection, and the accuracy of the explanations. It gives the Etymologies of many words, and examples to shew their meanings. The nature of the work is well explained in the Irish Preface prefixed to it, which we shall here translate.

"Be four things known to those who are resolved to read the following little work. First; that we have not inserted

any word therein, as the interpretation of the difficult words of our maternal tongue, except those which we have found explained by the most able, learned and intelligent masters in the abstruse parts of the Irish language, living in our own time, or those which we have heard expounded. Among those learned men are chiefly Boetius Roe Mac Egan, Torna O'Mulconry, Malachy Modardha O'Mulconry and Lughaidh O'Clery ; and though each of these be eminently learned, we have, for the most part, adopted the interpretation of Boetius, because it was from him we have received, and also by him have found written, with others, the interpretation of those words of which we treat. Moreover, because he is the most celebrated sage in this department of science, as is evident from the character given of him by the above mentioned Lughaidh, in the following verses composed for him after his death :

Neither Atlairne, father of science,
Nor Dallan Forgaill the chief sage,
Nor Neide erudite or Feircheirtne,
With him are to be compared.

The abstruse treatises of our ancestors' laws,
The energetic language of our bards,
Which, to our own knowledge, were long locked up,
Their treasures, by our bard, have been unfolded.

We know many learned men in this science, even in modern times, to wit, John O'Mulconry, in his own time, chief Preceptor to those already mentioned, and to the men of Ireland in antiquities, Flann Mac Carbry Mac Egan, still living, and others not here named : But because few only of the books which they have glossed have fallen into our hands at this side of the ocean, where we are in

exile, we have it not in our power to adopt their interpretation, except in a few instances.

Secondly ; Be it known to you, that those works from which we have extracted these words, which those persons already mentioned, who were recently teaching, glossed and expounded, are *The Amhra Choluim Cille—the Dialogue of the two Sages—The Festology of the saints—The Festology of Gorman—Book of Hymns—Vocabularies—The life of Patrick—Old Vellum Manuscripts—and old books on paper, in which I have found many obscure words expounded—the Forus Focal—a treatise called, A sister to wisdom is philosophy*, and a great portion of the other books expounded by the said Boetius.

Thirdly ; Be it known to the reader, that we intend no more, in compiling this little work, than to give some portion of knowledge to youths and to the ignorant, and to stimulate the learned, whom we have already mentioned, to give a more improved and copious work of this nature. The reason why we have not spoken here more at large of the various meanings of the words which the learned ascribe to many of them, and that we have forborne to shew the derivation of many more, is, that the study of such things belong rather to men of science, and not so necessary for all to be acquainted with, as it is to be able to read and understand the old books.

Fourthly ; Be it known to the young and ignorant, who are resolved to learn to read the ancient books (a remark not necessary for the learned of my fellow countrymen) that the authors seldom minded writing a slender vowel with a broad or a broad with a slender, or aspiration of consonants, such as *b̄, ċ, ȳ, ȝ*, &c. and even seldom placed an accent over a vowel. They also commuted one letter for another, such as *c* for *g* and *τ* for *ϑ* ; for instance, *c1oc* for *c1og*,

agac for agát, beac for beag, coolað for coolač, aꝛc for aꝛc. They also substituted æ for ao, aꝓ for aoꝓ and oꝓ for aoꝓ as æð for aoð, cæc for caoc, and baꝓ and even boꝓ for baoc. In old books they also wrote e for a ; as oꝓe for oꝓa, cꝓe for cꝓa, and such others : They also wrote indifferently a, o and r one for another at the end of a word ; as, ꝥompla, ꝥomꝓlo, ꝥomꝓlu, &c."

Thus far the Preface.—The words and explanations are printed in the Irish character, and most of them are to be found in the subsequent publications of Lluyd and O'Brien.

LLUYD'S IRISH DICTIONARY—FOLIO.—OXFORD, 1707.

The next Dictionary of our language published was the Latin, British and Irish comparative vocabulary of Lluyd and his Irish-English Dictionary, to be found in his Archæologia, in the year 1707. This work can never be sufficiently appreciated, or too highly praised, and is deserving the Etymologist's closest attention. It is, however, to be regretted, that it is not more copious, and that it omits the derivations and other accidents of our language in the Irish-English part.

MAC CURTIN'S ENGLISH-IRISH DICTIONARY :— QUARTO—PARIS, 1732.

This is the only English-Irish Dictionary extant, (except an abridgment for the use of schools,) and it is used only for want of a better. The English words are now, for the most part, quaint and obsolete ; but there are some Irish words interspersed, which the Irish-English Lexicons do not contain. A good English-Irish

Dictionary is a desideratum in our Literature, and the want of it a great inconvenience to learners of our Language.

O'BRIEN'S IRISH-ENGLISH DICTIONARY—QUARTO.—
PARIS, 1768.

The Preface to this work is excellent. It is a learned discourse on the antiquity of our language and its affinity to others. The Remarks which precede each of the letters are valuable ; and more than one of our Lexicographers have been beholden to them. Vallancey, in compiling his Grammar, has drawn largely from them, when treating of the letters. This Dictionary is chiefly compiled from O'Clery's, Plunkett's, and Lluyd's Vocabularies, but wants thousands of words still existing in the written and living language. So far, however, as it extends it is tolerably perfect. The derivation of many words is given, as are also several examples or quotations to illustrate the meanings of those which are obsolete or obscure. But at the same time, some of the practically useful points of a Dictionary are omitted, such as the Genders of Nouns, Parts of Speech, &c. The number of words is uselessly encreased, by repeating the same word as often as it has a different meaning, which should never be done, except when it is of different genders or parts of speech. No reason is given for this departure from the established and more economical rule in Lexicography of affixing all the different varieties of signification, with the above exceptions, to the same word in the original. Though adopted by Doctor O'Brien's predecessors, O'Clery and Lluyd, and even since his time, it is liable to objections. Notwithstanding the adoption of this plan, Doctor O'Brien has not, in many instances, given all the meanings of the words, but to recompence for this defect

many topographical and genealogical notices are interspersed throughout, which are interesting to the general reader.

The next treatise of this nature that made its appearance was,

SHAW'S GALIC DICTIONARY.—QUARTO.—LONDON, 1778.

This work, though chiefly confined to the Scottish dialect of the Gaelic, yet contains so much of the language of Ireland, that its want would be sensibly felt by the student, and this, consequently, entitles it to notice in this department of our national literature. A great portion of it was extracted by the learned and indefatigable author from ancient Irish Manuscripts, as he candidly acknowledges in the Preface, and to it the latest Dictionary of our language is indebted for considerably more assistance than has been candidly acknowledged. The Preface is excellent, and as his plan is similar to that of O'Brien, with very few exceptions, the same remarks are applicable to both.

**VALLANCEY'S PROSPECTUS OF A DICTIONARY OF
THE AIRE COTI OR ANTIENT IRISH.—**

QUARTO.—DUBLIN, 1803.

This curious work presents a remarkable instance of intellectual vigour at a very advanced period of life, and of the unabated zeal and perseverance with which the learned author pursued his favourite theory, nearly to the termination of a long and honourable life. It is, however, more adapted for the Oriental antiquary than for the practical Irish scholar. The studious reader is therefore referred to the Prospectus itself, where he will be gratified with proofs of Etymological penetration and acuteness, and to a paper in the Edinburgh Review, (1803) in which, this work and the system laid

down therein are rather severely treated. The critic has, however, made several judicious remarks on the ancient language and literature of Ireland.* This Prospectus was, I believe, the latest production of any consequence of the venerable author.

* Vol. 2. page 16.—The following extract from this critique may serve to convey a general idea of the modern opinions of our Scottish neighbours, on the subject of the ancient literature of Ireland.

“ The ancient language of Ireland has long deserved the attention of the learned, both from the intimate connection which it holds with the history of the British islands, and the neglected state in which it has hitherto been suffered to perish. Though now confined to the mountains of Scotland and a few of the *wildest* Irish counties, it possesses many qualities which merit an accurate examination ; it is entitled to a share of the labours of the Philologist, on account of its antiquity ; and particularly endeared to a patriotic Briton as the primitive language of his country. More important reasons might have induced the antiquary to study it, and transmit it to posterity. A considerable number of ancient MSS. the work of the dark and middle ages are written in Irish. The monks of that kingdom, without deserving the praise of being more enlightened than their brethren on the continent, had, however, the good fortune to escape, in some measure, the Saxon and Danish conquests, which extinguished learning in Britain. Ireland possesses many MSS. of old laws, poems, romances, chronicles, &c. which were not composed by pagans, though at a time when Britain was comparatively illiterate. The stories of Oisein, Fin, and his heroes may be better learned from Irish MSS. of the 12th than from ignorant Highland traditions of the 19th century. Such a height of discredit have these traditions now attained, that since the publications of Macpherson, no candid inquirer dare trust in them, even when they are supported by the most respectable authority. Irish or Highland MSS. older than the beginning of the 18th century, must alone determine the authenticity of the poems ascribed to Ossian. Such extracts of these MSS. as are useful for any literary purpose, *ought to be published* by the joint labours of the *Irish and Highland* literati. The time is for ever fled, when a Highlander *might forge what he pleased, and tell the world that it was a translation*. Why does no sober antiquary compile a Dictionary of the Irish from authentic MSS. and printed books without one particle of Etymology. (The critic seems to have been unacquainted with Shaw’s work.) The various senses of the Vocables should be taken from existing writings and the vernacular dialects of Ireland and Scotland. The orthography should be adjusted from MSS. or correct philological analogy ; not from any theoretical derivations with which even the quotations of some Celtic Philologists have been corrupted. Instead of this scientific labour, the Caledonian and Hibernian antiquaries waste long lives and respectable learning, in establishing fictions, which a child would ridicule, and in torturing the pliable orthography of a barbarous dialect, to give it a fanciful resemblance to Sanscrit or Phœnician. Smith’s Gaelic antiquities, the writings of the two Macphersons and all the

O'REILLY'S IRISH-ENGLISH DICTIONARY,—QUARTO.
—DUBLIN, 1821.

This is the latest and most copious Dictionary published. The author had considerable advantages over any of his predecessors in the way of printed materials for his compilation, and he appears to have industriously and copiously profited by them. Independently of these resources, he obtained the MS. collections of the late Mr. Halliday, prepared for a Dictionary of our language, which, notwithstanding the publication of the present work, it will be a matter of lasting regret that this learned and ingenious youth did not live to publish. For these reasons, it might be expected that the present Dictionary would, not only have excelled all those which preceded it, but even have approached to the wished-for perfection in a work of this nature. It was our intention here to have analyzed it minutely, but having already nearly exceeded our limits, we must be contented with a cursory view of what the author has achieved, and what he has left undone. The mere collection of words is a task that requires more labour than ability, and in this respect our author has

works of General Vallancey, are thus either a chaos of Etymology or a heap of false history and fanciful hypotheses. One solitary Gaelic publication, the Grammar by Mr. Stewart of Moulin, deserves to be exempted from this charge. The author has obtained the praise of General Vallancey, because he understands Hebrew; we, on the other hand, should have been more disposed to bestow upon him our own praise, had he understood no Hebrew at all, or rather made no use of it in that publication. Though we pretend to more knowledge of the oriental languages than of Irish, we know enough of the latter to assert that there is not a Hebrew or an Arabic type necessary in printing the dictionary which is to transmit it to posterity."—In this opinion, so far as transmitting our language to posterity, I fully agree with the critic, but when he decries its connection with the Hebrew, I am induced to doubt his knowledge of either.

certainly exceeded his predecessors.* The remarks on the letters are taken from O'Brien's Dictionary. He has given, in general, the genders of nouns and the parts of speech to which the several classes of words belong, and, in many instances, quoted authorities from our old authors, to exemplify the meanings. The several words are also given in *Italic* letters for the use of those who do not use or understand the Irish characters. All these are so many useful additions to the former Dictionaries, and as they must have been attended with considerable expence and labour, entitle the author to the thanks of the Irish scholar. Though, thus, much has been achieved, yet many valuable and necessary parts have been left undone. The pointing out the position of the accent in the word is wholly omitted, as also the pronunciation of the words and their etymology and cognates in the Celtic dialects; neither are their affinities traced to other languages. Many admit of a fuller interpretation and more extended signification, and their literal and figurative meanings should be pointed out. Of some the parts of speech are not marked, and many of the verbs are given in certain states, without pointing out the root, or conjugation, or even their denomination. In many instances words are not in alphabetical or strict dictionary order, and those so misplaced may be well deemed as

* The author has stated, in the title page, that his work "contains upwards of twenty thousand words that never appeared in any former Irish Lexicon" !!! It is necessary that the student should understand this statement. He has followed O'Clery, Lluyd, O'Brien, and particularly Shaw (whose Galic Dictionary he made the ground-work of his production) in *repeating the same word* generally as often as it has different meanings. These repetitions are all included in the total number, so that the same word is enumerated several times. There was no necessity for this numerical ostentation, the author having, as noticed above, considerably added to the collection of words in most of our former Lexicons.

lost, and in some of the examples he has not given the proper meaning, and, in some instances, has converted verbs into substantives. The author says, “ When I was making my collection it never occurred to me that the words used in daily conversation, and familiar to myself, might have been omitted by former compilers, and taking it for granted that they were not omitted, I never examined further into the matter.” This extraordinary oversight induced a supplement, which renders reference to the volume both tedious and troublesome. The omission of thousands of words, still to be found in the written and living language, not inserted in this Dictionary, is no imputation on the author, who is rather entitled to credit for the number he has given. The words alluded to, if gleaned and properly illustrated, would render the study of our language easy, and prove a key to the treasures of our manuscripts.

A Lexicon supplying all these defects is still a desideratum. Such a work would prove a valuable treasure in Irish Philology, and be the means of bringing to light much useful matter wrapped up in the obscurity of ancient documents. The specimen of an Irish Dictionary subjoined to these remarks would be followed up by the writer, if it were found adequate to supply those deficiencies ; and to make it of more utility, would be preceded by a Grammar, to which reference could be made, particularly containing Principles of Pronunciation, Rules for Genders, Declensions, &c. But apprehending the want of reasonable encouragement, he feels it his duty to leave these his humble observations on record, hoping that should such a work be hereafter patronized, they may prove, in some degree, useful to the author, and whoever he may be, his success in such a national undertaking will be attended with the writer’s warmest wishes.

The writer cannot conclude without expressing his grateful acknowledgments to James Hardiman, Esq. author of the History of Galway and other works relating to Ireland, to whose knowledge of the language and antiquities of the country he is indebted for many useful observations, and whose rare collection of manuscripts was imparted with a liberality equalled only by his zeal for promoting every measure connected with Irish literature :—to the Rev. William H. Drummond, D. D. author of the charming poem on the Giant's Causeway, whose successful study of our language evinces the facility with which it may be acquired, and induces a hope that with the aid of his talents some of the neglected and beautiful poetry of Ireland may yet be restored :—and to his dear and early friend, the Rev. Simon Walsh, of East-lane chapel, Bermondsey, London, the Patriot, the Gentleman and the Scholar, who first fostered the writer's propensities for those pursuits in which he himself so much excels, and the memory of whose accumulated kindnesses will ever remain deeply engraven on his heart.

MODEL

OF AN

IRISH-ENGLISH DICTIONARY,

&c. &c. &c.

A SCALE OF THE QUANTITIES OF THE VOWELS WITH THEIR CORRESPONDING ENGLISH SOUNDS.

Vowels.	Quantity.	Examples.	Pronunciation.	Meaning.	Cor. Eng. sounds.
A.	1. <i>long, deep and broad</i>	lá	¹ la	<i>a day</i>	a in call
	2. <i>short and broad</i>	τарт	² tart	<i>thirst</i>	a than
	3. <i>obscure</i>	ḍona	³ dona	<i>bad</i>	a menace
	4. <i>diphthongal</i>	ṛaḍaṛc	⁴ radharc	<i>sight, view.</i>	y rye
	5.* <i>diphthongal</i>	ḍall	⁵ dall	<i>blind</i>	aoo closely sounded
	6. <i>diphthongal</i>	τaḍajṛc	⁶ tabhairc	<i>giving</i>	ou thou
E.	1. <i>long and slender</i>	ṛé	¹ re	<i>time</i>	a made
	2. <i>short and slender</i>	le	² le	<i>with</i>	e met
	3. <i>obscure</i>	majṛe	³ maise	<i>beauty</i>	e judgment
I.	1. <i>long, slender and squeezed</i>	mĵn	¹ mĵn	<i>smooth</i>	e me
	2. <i>slender and short</i>	mjl	² mil	<i>honey</i>	i pin
O.	1. <i>long, open and broad</i>	mōṛ	¹ mor	<i>great</i>	o more
	2. <i>short and broad</i>	τoṛc	² torc	<i>a boar</i>	u but
	3. <i>obscure</i>	cnoc	³ cnoc	<i>a hill</i>	u bull
	4. <i>diphthongal</i>	ḍoñ	⁴ donn	<i>brown</i>	ou sound
U.	1. <i>long, broad and obtuse</i>	τūṛ	¹ tur	<i>a tower</i>	oo pool
	2. <i>short, broad and obtuse</i>	luc	² luch	<i>a mouse</i>	u bull.

* The 5th and 6th sounds of A, and the 4th of O are not analogical; they are used only in the Munster dialect; and as there will be occasion, in the course of this work, to point out the Provincial modes of pronunciation, it has been considered necessary to admit them into the above scale.

THE SOUNDS OF THE CONSONANTS EXEMPLIFIED.

I. CONSONANTS IN THEIR PLAIN STATE.

Conso- nants.	Examples.	THICK SOUNDS. Meaning.	Cor. Eng. sounds.	Conso- nants.	Examples.	SLENDER SOUNDS. Meaning.	Cor. Eng. sounds.
b	in baʎle	a town	b in ball	b	in bʎð	be thou	b in be
c	— cáʎl	quality	c — call	c	— cēʎɾ	wax	k — keep
ð	— ðáʎl	grant	th — than	ð	— ðēʎɾc	alms	d — dew
ʃ	— ʃáʎl	a ring	f — fall	ʃ	— ʃēuɾ	grass	f — few
ʒ	— ʒáʎɾ	a cry	g — gall	ʒ	— ʒēuɾ	sour	g — gay
* l	— láɾ	middle	————	l	— lēʎɾ	a leap	l — lieu
m	— má	if	m — maw	m	— mē	me	m — mew
n	— ná	nor	————	n	— nʎ	not	n — new
p	— pōɾ	tribe	p — pore	p	— pēʎɾð	worm	p — pew
ɾ	— ɾáð	saying	r — raw	ɾ	— ɾēʎɾ	course	r — ray
ɾ	— ɾáʎl	a heel	s — saw	ɾ	— ɾē	six	sh — shade
t	— tá	is	th — thaw	t	— tēuð	rope	t — tutor

II. ASPIRATED CONSONANTS.

THICK SOUNDS.			SLENDER SOUNDS.		
b	in a baʎle	his town	w	in wall	
č	— a cáʎl	his quality	χ	in Greek	
ð	— ðáʎl	his grant	————		
ʃ	— ʃáʎl	his ring	Silent		
ʒ	— ʒáʎɾ	his cry	————		
m̃	— m̃am	O mother!	w	water	
p̃	— p̃ōɾ	his tribe	f	four	
ɾ̃	— ɾ̃áʎl	his heel	h	hool	
t̃	— t̃ál	his adze	h	haw	

b	in bʎð	was	v	in view	
č	— a cēʎɾ	his wax	χ	in Greek	
ð	— ðēʎɾc	his alms	y	yet	
ʃ	— ʃēuɾ	his grass	Silent		
ʒ	— ʒēʎɾ	his tallow	y	in yet	
m̃	— m̃ēuɾ	my finger	v	vein	
p̃	— p̃ēʎɾð	his worm	f	few	
ɾ̃	— ɾ̃ēaɾc	his love	h	hark	
t̃	— t̃ēuð	his rope	h	hare	

* For the thick sounds of l and n, of ð and ʒ, and also of č thick and slender, we have no corresponding English sounds. In the following Model of a Dictionary, when it becomes necessary, in the pronouncing part, to express the various sounds of the Consonants, both *plain* and *aspirated*, their *thick* sounds are marked in the Roman letter, and the *slender* sounds in the Italic.

MODEL

OF AN

IRISH-ENGLISH DICTIONARY,

&c. &c. &c.

ᄡ.

ᄡ.

ᄡ (71.) ¹la, ²tart, ³dona, ⁴radharc, ⁵dall, ⁶tabhairt;—¹re, ²le, ³maise;—¹min, ²mil;—¹mor, ²torc, ³cnoc, ⁴donn;—¹tur, ²luch.
¹bán, ²bídh;—¹cáil, ²céir;—¹dáil, ²déirc;—¹féar, ²gáir, ³géur;—¹lár, ²léim;—¹má, ²mé;—¹ná, ²ní;—¹pór, ²péisid;—¹rádá, ²righ;—¹sáil, ²sé;—¹tá, ²téud.
¹bhaile, ²bhídh;—¹cháil, ²chéir;—¹dháil, ²dhéirc;—¹fháil, ²fhéur;—¹gháir, ²gheir;—¹mham, ²mhéur;—¹phór, ²phéisid;—¹shail, ²shearc;—¹thal, ²théud.

ᄡ. ²aílm. ᄡn cēud lɛɽɽ de'n n-ᄡjbcɽɽɽ nuajɽ ɽaoɽɽɽɽɽɽ.—The first letter of the modern Irish Alphabet. It is called ailm from the *Palm-tree*, and the word ailm is derived from aíl, *arms*, and eim, *valiant*; *Palm* being given as a token of victory, to the valiant in arms.

In the *bobel-loč* of *Forchern* contained in the *uɽajceɽt*, and in the *ōɽam* and *beɽt-lujɽ-nɽɽon* Alphabets, preserved in the books of Leacan and Ballimote, b holds the first place; and the vowels follow each other in order, an instance not known, it is said, in any other language. According to *Forchern* in the *bobel-loč* Alphabet, each letter took its name from the person who invented it; but according to the *beɽt-lujɽ-nɽɽon* alphabet, the names of the letters are derived from trees.

ᄡ is one of the three *broad* vowels, and the characteristic or leading vowel of the three diphthongs ae, aj, ao,

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and the triphthong aoɽ, called, by our grammarians, *amancojll* and *amancojll*, i. e. *Aphthongs*. It has three, pure analogical sounds; the first as heard in the word lá, *a day*, corresponding to the German *a*, and to *aw* in English, in the word *law*, or *a* in *call*:—the second as heard in the word ɽajɽ, *thirst*, corresponding to *a* in the English word *than*:—and the third as heard in the word, dona, *bad*, corresponding to *a* in the word *menace*. In the last, a is commutable, in the middle and end of words, with o and u obscure. Independently of the three pure sounds, this letter has three others, mixt or diphthongal:—The first is heard in the first syllable of the word ɽadaɽɽ, *sight*; but it never has this sound in any situation, except when followed in the first syllable of a word by ɽ or ɽ followed by a vowel or l, m, n, or ɽ in the second syllable, as, adadɽɽ, *a horn*; adɽadɽ,

L

α.

(71.) ¹la, ²tart, ³dona, ⁴radhare, ⁵dall, ⁶tabhairt;—¹re, ²le, ³maise;—¹min, ²mil;—¹mor, ²torc, ³cnoc, ⁴donn;—¹tur, ²luch.

adoration; aḃlacadh, burying, &c. it corresponds with *y* in the word *thy*:—The second and third sounds are peculiar to Munster, and the districts adjoining it; the second sound is given by the Momonians, when it is followed in the first syllable of a dissyllabic word by *ll*, *m* or *n*; as *ball a member*, *am time*, *fan feeble*; this sound resembles that of *a* in the English word *than* and *oo* in the word *pool*, sounded as closely and rapidly together as possible: the third sound is heard, when *a* is followed in the first syllable of a word by *b* or *m* followed by a vowel or *l*, *n* or *r*, as heard in the words *tabairt*, *amlaibh*, *ganna*, *amhar*, &c. corresponding to *ou* in the English word *sour*, and in some districts they give it the sound of *oo*, as heard in the English word *pool*. The Conacians and Ultonians, in these cases, give *a* the analogical second sound, as heard in the word *tar* *thirst*; and they are justifiable in doing so on pure principles of analogy.

These diphthongal sounds of *a* and the 4th of *o*, as marked in the scale of the vowels at the head of the page, and the sounds of *ea* and *jo* in the same situations as *a* and *o*, described above; sounding *r* for *n*, as *crám* for *cnám*; and in some places *n* for *r*, as *dnáir* for *dnáir*;—*é* like *é*, as *rúic* pronounced by some *rúic*; *ruic*, *ruic*; *cjoc*, *cjoc*, &c.—and *é* when at the termination of verbs is sounded in certain tenses and moods by the Momonians, as *é*, *é*, *é* and *m*. These, with the position of the accent are, in a great measure, the cause of that diversity of pronunciation which is peculiar to the inhabitants of the respective districts of Ireland.

This letter has several meanings, and

α.

varies its sound to express many of them.

1. α. a. Article.—(Hebrew *an*, *he*, Greek *o*, *η*, *το*,) *the*.

This is a contracted mode of writing the article *an*, and in that case it should be apostrophized, thus, (*α'*) to point out the omission of the *n*, and to prevent the ambiguity, which otherwise would attend it, if not distinguished from the other parts of speech which it has the power to express:—

Example, *ἄνθρωπος* (*a*) *ἦεν* *τρεῖς*,
for — *ἄνθρωπος* (*an*) *ἦεν* *τρεῖς*.

The former means, “*Her* mighty man came.”

The latter — “*The* mighty man came.”

A writer, therefore, if he intend to avoid ambiguity, in his style, should be cautious not to write the article in that contracted manner. In ancient MSS. it is often written *j*, *jn*, *jñ* and *jnd*.

When the article *an* precedes a noun masculine in the Genitive case singular, whose initial letter is a vowel, or *r* followed by a vowel, or *l* or *r*, some writers abusively divide it, leaving the letter *a* alone, and joining the *n* to the noun, without even an apostrophe or hyphen between them which might serve to shew that *n* does not radically form part of the noun. *Ex.* *λοῦρα* *a* *νόη*, literally, “the splendour of *their* gold,” though the meaning intended to be conveyed is, *the splendor of the Gold*;—*δεσμεῖς* *a* *ῥόδων*, *end of the harvest*. These should be *λοῦρα* *an* *οῦ*,—*δεσμεῖς* *an* *ῥόδων*.

2. α. a. s. f. Taken materially or for itself. It is called *ajlm*, the *Elm* or *Palm-Tree*.

a.

bán, biadh; cáil, céir; dáil, déire; fáil, féur; gáir, géur; lár, léim; má, mé; ná, ní; póir, péisd; rádh, rígh; sáil, sé; tá, teud.
bhaile, bhídh; cháil, chéir; dháil, dhéire; fháil, fhéur; gháir, gheir; mham, mhéur; phér, phéisd; sháil, shearc; thál, théud.

a.

3. ¹ a. a. s. m. [Declension here according to the Grammar to be prefixed.] (*Pun. n*, a mountain.) 1. áir, cnoc. 2. cáir, canbad. 3. go fjožarba; áirdejm, ná, ronay, reun, náct-may, byreac, brejy.—*Altitude, collis; currus, plaustrum, rheda; Met. dignitas, faustitas, prosperitas.*—Height, hill; car, chariot; *Fig.* dignity, luck, happiness, prosperity, affluence, increase.

1. "Fujl dam ajtne áyde .j. atá ljom no agam ajtne an énrje rj. O'Clery.
2. &c. (Here give authorities for the other meanings.) ád is the true writing of this word.

4. ³ a. a. Possessive Pronoun. [Here shew the affinities.] fomaajm realba, a éjallužgear realb, a bajneay, 1. lejy, 2. lej. 3. leō.—*suus, sua, suum.*—his, her, its, their.

1. *Uguy d'ajtjn rē dpeadmanac (a) tēje. Gen. 44. v. 1.*

2. *Ugry njon ajtjn rē j no go muj (a) céudmac. Math. 1. 25.*

3. "Na majtejeada lean Cijoyt añ (a) njōmārtāyb." *T. O'Sullivan's Irish Poems.*

When this letter means *his*, the initial of the noun to which it refers, if a mutable consonant, requires aspiration; as a *capall*, *his horse*, a *donay*, *his door*, a *éalam*, *his land*: but if the initial be a vowel, or any of the immutables *l, n, r*, it suffers no change; as, a *ōr*, *his gold*, a *anam*, *his soul*, a *lám*, *his hand*, a *namrē*, *his enemy*, a *nožad*, *his choice*.

When it signifies *her*, the initial of the noun to which it has reference, if a consonant, suffers no change; as, a *capall*, *her horse*, a *donay*, *her door*; but when a vowel is the initial, it requires *h* as a prefix; as a *h-ōr*, *her gold*, a *h-anam*, *her soul*.

When it signifies *their*, the initial, if a consonant of the influenced class, will require eclipsis; as a *z-capajll*, *their horses*, a *n-dōjnye* *their doors*; but if the initial be a vowel, it will take *n* prefixed; as a *n-ōr*, *their gold*; a *n-ajygead*, *their silver*.

It has been asserted by our grammarians that when *a* means *her* or *their*, it causes the initial of the noun to which it refers, if it be either of the immutables *l, n* or *r*, to be sounded double: as a *lám*, *her* or *their hand*, a *nájne*, *her* or *their shame*, a *réjm*, *her* or *their course*. This, however, is not the case, for these letters never suffer any variation in their sounds except that which is peculiar to all the consonants when followed by a broad or slender vowel.

In the ablative case, when the preposition, which precedes this pronoun, ends in a vowel, it requires *n* to be prefixed; but a hyphen should be placed between the adventitious *n* and the *a*, thus (*n-a*) to distinguish it from the genitive singular feminine, and the plural of both genders, and from the conjunction *ná*, *nor*, which is often found without an accent, and the contraction of *añ a, i. e. na*: Example, le *n-a lājim*, *ō n-a z-ceant*; (sometimes written *ōna*) the *n* is used for the sake of euphony.

5. ³ a. a. Relative Pronoun. Invariable in both numbers and genders. [Here point out the affinities.] *noč, noča.*—*qui, quæ, quod; quem*;—That, who, which; whom.

If the initial of the verb which it precedes be an aspirable consonant, it will require aspiration, and the inflection of the verb in the termination must be *ay* or *ey* in the present and future tenses, indicative mode, active voice; as, *dja (a) jtažlujžer an énujne*:—*dja (a) éaomnay a rle ojbneaca*:—

α.

α. (71.) 1a, tart, dona, radharc, dall, tabhairt;—re, le, maise;—min, mil;—mor, torc, enoc, donn;—tur, luch.

an leanb (α) ḡrádujḡear;—na nejṭe (α) déanṭar ṛe.

Some writers use do for α, particularly before a verb whose initial is a vowel; as dja (do) ḡraṭujḡ, &c. but this liberty is abusive.

6. α. a. *A sign of the Infinitive mood.* j. do, to; as in English. [Affinities here.]

This is abusively used for do, i. e. to, as a sign of the Infinitive mood, as will be evident from the following example:—(α) bejṭ, for (do) bejṭ. The former of which means, *his being*, the latter, *to be*. It is never used except before a word that has a consonant as its initial.

7. α. a. *An interrogative Adv. i. e. an.* [Heb. an, an.—Lat. an.]—Whether.

This is a contraction for an. It eclipses an initial mutable consonant in the verb; as a b-fajl, for an b-fajl? a d-tájnṭe ṛe, for an d-tájnṭe ṛe? It becomes aṛ, i. e. an no in the past tense, and aspirates the initial, if a mutable consonant; as aṛ buajlṭ, aṛ cúmajṭ, for an no buajlṭ, an no cúmajṭ.

8. α. a. *Preposition, serving to the Ablative Case:* a contraction of 1. aṇ.

2. aḡ. 3. aṛ. [Affinities.] Lat. in; apud; a, ab, abs; e, ex.—In; at; out of, or from.

1. When it means aṇ, i. e. in, it eclipses the initial of the noun which it precedes, if it be a consonant of the influenced class; as a m-bajle, in a town; a ḡ-Corcajc, in Cork. The ancients wrote j for α, and jn, jṇ, and jnd for the aṇ of the moderns. They were right in doing so, even the moderns, in their conjunctive pronouns, preserve that form; as joṇam, &c.

2. When it signifies aḡ, i. e. at, it

α.

seldom appears in that contracted form, except before active participles whose initials are consonants, and even so, it is abusively used; as (α) bualad for (aḡ) bualad, a beating, a cṛujṇjṭad, for aḡ cṛujṇjṭad, collecting, &c.

3. When it means aṛ, i. e. out of or from, it has the first sound of α; as a bajle, from home; “Aṛ na ccṛujṇjṭad a móṛán de ṛeanleabṛajb.” O’Clery, *Preface to his Irish Dictionary*.

This preposition coalesces with the pronouns personal and possessive, as am, in my, ad, in thy. aḡam, aṛam, &c. For these refer to Grammar to be prefixed.

It is also used emphatically (In this case it is abusively used for ad or do) before the present, past, and, sometimes, the future tenses, indicative moods of verbs; as a dejnṭm, I say, a dúbajṭ me, I said: also before nouns, to form compound prepositions, adverbs and conjunctions; as a naḡajb, against, i. e. aṇ aḡajb, literally, in the face of. a b-foḡur, near, i. e. aṇ and foḡur. i. e. in contiguity; a noṭt, to-night, a máṛac, to-morrow, &c.

It is also used as an inseparable prefix or preposition in composition, and is sometimes omitted; as, aṛloṇad for ṛloṇad, telling or informing; acobṛad for cobṛad, wishing, longing, desiring; &c.

It is also used abusively by some writers when they separate it from ṛ in the affirmative impersonal verb aṛ, it is; as, a ṛe, for aṛ e, it is he; a ṛj, for aṛ j, it is she; a ṛjad, for aṛ jad, it is they. To remove ambiguity, it would be better to write the verb aṛ (jṛ) to distinguish it from the preposition aṛ,

a.

bán, bidh; -cáil, céir; -dál, déirc; -fáil, féur; -gáir, géur; -lár, léim; -má, mé; -ná, ní; -pór, péisd; -rádh, rígh; -sáil, sé; -tá, téud.
bhaile, bhídh; -cháil, chéir; -dháil, dhéirc; -fháil, fhéur; -gháir, gheir; -mham, mhéur; -phór, phéisd; -sháil, shearc; -thál, théud.

ab.

out of; and yr or ar, the contraction of azyr should be written 'ar or 'ur.

9. a. a. *Interjection.* Or rather the Personal Pronoun *tu*, obscurely sounded. An exclamation used in addressing; a sign of the vocative case; the same as O in Latin and English;—as a *oja*; O *Deus*; O *God*. The initial of the noun and adjective that is addressed, if a mutable consonant, requires aspiration in both numbers and genders; as “*a* *Ohja* *gléigil na fésle* ‘ar a *atair* *óiljir*.” *T. O’Sullivan’s Irish Poems.*

Ab. ab. s. m. gen. sing. and nom. pl. *ab* or *aba* [Declension] according to the Grammar prefixed. [Heb. אב, *ab*; Chaldaic, אב *ab*. Turkish *aba*. Greek, *αββα*. Latin, *abbas*. Spanish, *abad*. Calmuc Tartars, *abagai*. Hungarian, *apa*. Grisons, *bab*. Syracusan and Bythinian, *pappas*. Syriac, *abba*. Welch, *abad*. Armoric and Cornish, *abad*, *abatae*. Italian, *papa*.*] 1. *atair*. 2. *tyg-eanna*. 3. *Uachtarán* *majnyrteac*. 4. *fjoz*. *ádbair no cúyr*.—*Pater*;—*dominus*; *abbas*;—*causa*, *occasio*, *gratia*, *vel ratio*.—A father;—lord;—abbot;—a cause or reason. 1. “*Deairc aji an (ab) naomta Elias*.” *Irish Sermons*. 2. “*Tá an (t-ab) ór cjoñ an t-reairbfozantaide*.”—*Life of Colum-Cille in Irish MS.* 3. “*Bar Cionan mc. Ulaezhbha (ab) Cluanamc-nojr*.” *Tigernach, Annals*, A. D. 638. 4. “*aji aba*.” *Oclery*.

Ab. ab. s. f. gen. sing. *ábe*. n. pl. *ába*. [Decl.] [Introduce the affinities here.]

1. *áp*, *ápa*. 2. *orča*, *eaarajlajzeact*. 3. *a-n-allód*, *aén mjon-ajnmjode*, *dújl no cpeutújr*.—*Simia*.—*incantatio*;—*antehac*, *animalcula*.—An ape; spell, incantation; formerly any diminutive creature.

1. (Here give authorities for the meanings.)

Abaydeact. *ab'id-ucht*. s. f. gen. s. and n. pl. *abaydeacta*, [Decl.]—[Affinities] from *ab*, *abbot*, *ájt*, *a place*, and *act*, *a state or condition*.

1. *áray*, *ájrneab no joñad cōmnusje* *aba*. 2. *beata aba*:—*abbatia*; *abbacy*. 1. (Authorities.)

Abajb. *ab'u*. Adjective m. and f. gen. sing. m. *abajb*. f. *abajbe*; compar. *abajde* [Decl.] from *ab* *sweet*, *mellow*, and *ta* *a passive-participial termination*, which means *being*, *existence*, *state*, or *condition*. [Affinities.]

1. *žrant*, *jñuana*. 2. *fojrñbte*, *jom-lán*. 3. *moč*, *dojc*, *luat*. 4. *tyomda*, *ročmad*, *bunájteac*, *ojongmálta*, *dajng-ea*. 5. *žeup-meabrac*, *luajt-jntleac-tac*, *žljc*, *žayda*, *cljyde*, *cjiona*, *jmlleadrac*, *tyonrgadlac*, *beajtañajl*.—*Maturus*, *idoneum carptu*;—*perfectus*, *integer*;—*pramaturus*;—*gravus*, *serius*, *solidus*, *firmus*;—*præacutus*, *ingeniosus*, *expertus*, *solers*, *sagax*, *prudens*.—*Mature*, *ripe*, *mellow*, *fit to be pulled or plucked*;—*perfect*, *complete*;—*early*;

* It was at first intended that this Model, in addition to the several accidents of each word, should contain examples of the various meanings from our most approved writers, and also the affinities to other languages; but, it was afterwards considered that the same end would be attained by confining it to one or two examples of each. The time and research requisite for satisfactorily treating any limited number of words in these respects, particularly the former, would, as it is evident to every scholar who has given any attention to these matters, suffice to complete a hundred fold the number in the general work. The places, however, where they should be introduced are pointed out. For the same reason it was considered unnecessary to give all the meanings of the words.

abh.

(71.) ¹la, ²tart, ³dona, ⁴radharc, ⁵dall, ⁶tabhairt;—¹re, ²le, ³maise;—¹min, ²mil;—¹mór, ²torc, ³cnoc, ⁴donn;—¹tur, ²luch.

grave, serious, ingenious, cunning, expert, inventive.

1. (Authorities.)

abh. ²abh (ov) *Adj. m. and f. gen. sing. masc. aib. f. aibe;—compar. aibe.* [Decl.] [Affinities.]

1. mjljy, blayda. 2. aobjñ, rāram-ajl, tajtneamāc. 3. bjñ, ceōlmāc.—*Dulcis;—delectabilis;—harmonicus.*—Sweet, delicious;—delightful;—musical, sweet-sounding, melodious.

1. (Authorities.)

abhac. ²abh³ac. Munster Dialect, ⁶abhuc, (ouck) *s. m. gen. s. abajc; n. p. abajc, abaca or abca.* [Decl.] *from á, height, and bac, impediment, i. e. impeded growth or height.* [Affinities.]

1. Oujne no ajnmjñe mjon no anbeaz. 2. mjon-fár, maolacán. 3. gadaajjn, majonjn, no mada beaz, a tejdean fá talmajn do tabtāñad rjonajc ar póll. *Homunculus; nanus, pumilio; canum genus animalia subterranea indagans.*—A manikin; dwarf; terrier.

1. (Authorities.)

aball. ²abh²ull or ⁶abhull² (oo-ull) *s. m. gen. s. abajll, n. pl. abla i. e. aballa* [Decl.] *from ab sweet and al nourishment or food.* [Affinities.]

1. torca no meay an érajñ abajll; 2. érajñ aball; 3. admad an érajñ abajll. *Pomum, malum.*—An apple. (Authorities.)

aban. ²abh²un or ⁶abhun² (oun) *s. f. g. s. and n. pl. aibne, i. e. abajñe.* [Decl.] *from ab, sweet, and an, water.* [Affinities.] *ab, aman, rmut dobar, rnuad, mōr-gajre ujree a rjūblay, rjteay no rnjgeay amac jr an mujn.*—*Aminis, rivus, fluvius, flumen, aqua.*—A river, a large stream or current

abh.

of water that disembogues into the sea.

(Authorities.)

abhra. ²abh²rī or ⁶abh²rī. *s. f. g. s. abra, n. pl. abraða vel abrajde, abrojde, abrujde.* [Decl.]—*from ab, sweet, and rad, a saying.* [Affinities.]

1. dán, duajn, nejmead, caí, fjlj-deact. 2. caínt, abajnt, abrad, ráð, rájdeacay, úplabra.—*Poema, poesis; sermo, locutio, loquela, logos.*—A poem, poetry, speech, saying.

1. (Authorities.)

With respect to the four forms of the nominative plural, in the last word, they are indifferently used by our writers. It is our duty here to point out to the learner, that these are various modes of inflection for forming the nominative plural of the noun. The first is preferable, because it is that which preserves the original structure of the word, and on which the dative and ablative cases plural can be formed by merely adding jñ, and in the whole progress of the word through its inflections in forming the cases, the root is discernible; consequently, according to the genius and analogy of the language, whose peculiar elegance consists in preserving the radix, that mode of inflection is best which is most simple and regular, and which preserves the root invariable; but those that destroy it should be rejected as abusive. All these forms, when pronounced, sound alike to the ear, but are not equally clear to the Etymologist's eye in tracing the etymon of the word. This diversity and indifference about the form of inflexion, have caused much embarrassment to learn-

αα.

bán, bídh' : cáil, céir ; -dál, déire ; -fáil, féur ; -gáir, géur ; -lár, léim ; -má, mé ; -ná, ní ; -pór, péisd ; -rádh, rígh ; -sáil, sé ; -tá, téud. bhaile, bhídh ; -cháil, chéir ; -dháil, dhéire ; -fháil, fhéur ; -gháir, gheir ; -mham, mhéur ; -phór, phéisd ; -sháil, shearc ; -thál, théud.

ers, and in such cases render the language unsettled.

Acadam. ²ac'ud-²umh (*ock'i-thuv.*) s. m. g. s. and n. pl. acadajm, [Decl.]—*from* acadj, *an abode, and* dām, *of the learned.* [Affinities.]

1. Cločar, colajre, ánd-²rojl ea-laban azur aol leabarda. 2. Cóm-luadar dām no lučt eolur azur ánd-²rojlajme.—*Academia—academy.*

1. (Authorities.)

Amžar. ²amh'gur or ⁶amh'gur. s. m. g. s. and n. pl. amžajr. [Decl.] *from* am, *a negative particle, and* žar, *good, convenience.* [Affinities.]

1. mžocomžar. 2. anžō, ajndežre. 3. onž, tpeablažb. 4. dojlbeaž, dobžōn, docra, dožražn. *Inconvenientia ;—afflictio ;—tribulatio, angor, cruciatus, dolor, tristitia.*—*Inconvenience ; affliction ; tribulation, distress ; dolor, grievance, sorrow.*

1. (Authorities.)

Act. ²acht. (*ach, achth.*) *Conjunction disjunctive.* [Affinities.]

1. muna. 2. muna m-bežt. 3. řōž, n-ajmždežn. 4. leačamajč. 5. amžajr. 6. a n-ēužmajr. 7. žžb, žžbeaž.—*Sed.—but.* (Authorities.)

That the words called by grammarians, *conjunctions*, &c. (*i. e.* all the particles, which are used to point out in language the relations and other circumstances of objects, things, attributes and actions,) are either nouns or verbs in our language, would be manifest if the theory of such words were properly and satisfactorily investigated. This fact, however, will not appear, as to several of these words on a superficial view, for some of them are either ab-

αη.

breviations of phrases or sentences, or¹ corruptions of words that were once in use, and many of which it is likely are still used by persons who write and speak the language nearly in its original state. Had the learned and ingenious Horne Tooke understood our language, he would have found in it an extensive field for his curious speculations. For example, the last word, act, which is marked as a conjunction, is also a noun, signifying condition, exception, &c. The conjunction copulative azur, *and*, is a noun signifying addition, or increase, the diminutive of which is azuržn, an addendum or appendix. The preposition ar, *out of*, is derived from ua, a descendant, an emanation, and řor, rest. The preposition ō or uab, *from*, means son, descendant or emanation ;—the preposition az, *at*, is a noun, meaning rest, leisure, &c. and so of the other particles, all of which could be traced, in a work of this nature, to their primitive states and meanings.

Acturajž. ¹a'thri or ²a'hir-²rig. v. a. *second person singular Imp. mood of* aturžžjm, *first person Indicative ; do* aturajžear, *first person, past tense ; do* aturajžab, *Infin. aturajžab, pres. part. aturajžte past participle, from* at, *a reiterative particle, like* re *in English, and* tpeojž, *a foot, as it were, re-pace, or perhaps from* at *and* comurajže, *motion.* [Affinities.]

1. Joñtojž, ajrturajž. 2. tpejž, malarturajž claočlojž.—*muto, altero, convertito, emuto ; transfero, permuto, inflecto, amoveo, relinquo.*—*I change, turn, alter, vary, abandon, remove, inflect, translate.*

1. (Authorities.)

The foregoing Model is submitted, with every deference for any suggestion which may be offered for improvement. The necessity of a copious Expositor of our language is now greater than at any former period. The long neglected Annals of Ireland have been recently published under the auspices of his Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, with Latin translations by the Rev. Charles O'Connor, D.D. This great work comprises the Annals of the Four Masters to the reign of Henry II.—the Annals of Tigernach—of Ulster—of Inisfallen and of Boyle or Conaught, and forms the greatest body of Irish History ever given to the world. Its publication confers the highest honour on the noble Patron and talented Translator, and entitles them to the lasting gratitude of the Irish people. It is hoped that the learned Members of our College and of the Royal Irish Academy may imitate this munificent and patriotic example, by giving to the world the contents of the important national documents preserved in their respective archives.

Since the preceding sheets were put to press, Mr. Hardiman has procured, and kindly favoured me with the use of, a valuable and copious Irish Dictionary in MS. compiled by Mr. Peter O'Connell, an eminent Irish antiquary and linguist, who lately died near Kilrush in the county of Clare. This work, which engaged the truly learned but neglected compiler upwards of thirty years, contains many thousand words not in any printed Dictionary. It is particularly valuable for explaining obsolete words occurring in our most ancient Manuscripts, from which it appears to have been principally compiled.

The following description of Ireland, taken from an old MS. presents a specimen of correct orthography and grammar. It appears to be a dialogue between a father and son.

Cab j an žnējō tje Eje?—Tjn ālqñ, tōrmañrl a' b-peojl, a' n-jayc azuy a' d-tōrmañab aly j, fō bleaēt žača žnējōe eallajc azuy ājrnējy; añ a b-fujljō rlējōtj ārō-beaħača, fēur-uajtne, azuy žleaħa blāt-cūmħa, žlay-bjleaca, tnom-meapača, de rējy an fjle.—

“Žleaħa na n-jūbar ž-cay, ž-cpaēbac,”

7c. 7c. 7c.

An b-fujl tje cōmērom añ Ejjno?—Tā žo dejmjn, fā eōħna, črujtneacē azuy rle žnējōb aly arbaħy. Čā fad tā rj ājtjgē?—O ajmyjy an ārō-ačana ābħajm, azuy rjn ne dmojng črōda, čearc, žrādač, bjleay, bjada, jonduy žo rājō tujlleaō azuy dā mjlj bljadaħy 'na mħħač.—bħjō rj djađa, a dejj tū?—An j jnyy na naēm! bħjō mħħy rj polluy az beđe naēmča, a dejj, žuy ba ē naēm Colmán azuy a čujdeacta do

TRANSLATION.

What description of country is Ireland?—It is a beautiful and fertile country; abounding in flesh, fish and other necessities; overflowing with the milk of all kinds of herds and cattle. In it are high-cliffed verdant mountains, and flower-scented, arboreous, fruit-abounding vales, as described by the poet.—

“Vales of yews knotty and branchy,”

&c. &c. &c.

Is Ireland a campaign country?—It surely is, and abounds in barley, wheat, and all other kinds of corn.—How long is it inhabited?—Since the time of the Patriarch Abraham, and that by a valiant, just, affectionate, faithful and pious race; so much so, that during two thousand years the whole land was a nursery of science and learning.—You say it was a pious country?—What! is it the Island of Saints?—Certainly it was, as Bede bears testimony, when he says, that it was St. Colman

Էազարչ Կաթ-Տիպրան; Բարբեւոյ ծո Էազարչ առ Կաթ իօյն, ազար Աեօան ռաօմէա
 աթա Բա մեար մօր աչ Տաքրանաթա յա ռ-ճա. Բեւե! յր Երեանայ՝ Կլեմէնտ ազար Եօյն,
 ռա մանայ՝, ա շոյրեայն մօր-շոլայրտէ Կաչգամիլ Սիպրիյի ռա Բրաթիւն ազար Սիպ-
 Կաթ. Իր Երեանայ ծո շոյրեայն Կոլայրտէ Օքսֆօրտ, Լանդիքֆարն ազար Մալմսբուրի
 ա՛ Տաքրան, Իերիպօլիս, Կլլեն, Տէնգալլենիս ազար Բալգա առ ռան ռ-Տէրման,
 Բոբիօ առ ռան ռ-Լոտէալ; ազար ծո Բիօ առ աօյր Օչ աչ Երիլլ ծո Ի-Երիլլ Օ Զաթ Կրօ,
 ծո ռոյիլ առ ա ճնաթ-Բօթալ, ծա՛ Լէյնգեաթ ծայն է Բէյն ալլ Բօլլայն, “ Կիպաթ առ Բար
 ռօ ծո Ի-Երիլլ ծա՛ Բալլայն Բալլայն Բօլլայն. ” Ազար ա ծայն ռաօմ Աեմլ շում առ ռիլ
 Ալֆրեօ, “ Զար Բալլայն Բեւե ալլ Լիօնայնաթ աօր-Բօլլայն ռա Ի-Երեան, ազար ծո
 ռաԲաԿար՝ ռա Լօթրանայն Լօթրանա ալլ ճնաթ-Լայն աչ Էազարչաթ Էաչնա ծո՛ն ռ-Եօրայր
 սլլէ շում ա ճ-Կլլ ռիօրիպիլ, աչ ճնաթ-Էրօյն առ Երօթալ առ ծաԲալլ ազար ռա Կոլնա
 ազար Զաթ սլլէ Օլլ ծո ռիօլիպիլ ծաԿա, մար յր Բոլլայն Կա Լիպաթ մայրտէրաթ Էւչ
 Բալլ ա շոյիլ ալլ ռոն ՕԷ, Երիպաթ-միլեաթ Երիլլ ա ծայրէ Էւչ ա Բիօնաթ ալլ ռոն ՕԷ
 ազար ծա՛ Բալլայն յոչնէյն, Բոյլտէաթ, առիօթ ազար Բալլ Բա ծայր ալլ ռոն ՕԷ : ” Ա ծայն
 Բերնարօ ռաօմէա, “ Մար ռաԿաթ-Էւլլէ Զար Բիլլէ ԲալլտէաԿա ռաօմ ա՛ Ի-Երիլլ ալլ ԲաԿ
 ռա Երիլլ, ազար Զար Բա է Կոլմբանայ ծո Էօյն մայրիլլ Լուքօրիլլ յր առ Ի-Բրաթիւն. ”
 Ա ծայն Երիլլ Անտիլլոքրենիլլ, “ Երա Բալլտանայ ԼաԲայրտ ալլ Երիլլ? Էայն Էւչալլ
 ռա ռիօլլտէ Բալլայնաթ ռէ Էազարչաթ առ ալլ Բիօրայն, աչ Բալլայն ծիօրաթա Կոլ-

and his companions that preached the faith in North-Britain, Fursey in the Eastern parts, and
 holy Aedan, who is highly venerated by the English to this day. Behold ! the monks Clement and
 John founded the great University of Paris in France, and that of Padua. Irishmen founded
 the magnificent Colleges of Oxford, Landisfarn and Malmesbury in England, of Herbiopolis,
 Cullen, Sengallensis and Fulga in Germany, and of Bobio in Italy ; and youths repaired from
 all parts to Ireland, insomuch, that it became proverbial with respect to eminent scholars,
 “ that such a person travelled to Ireland to acquire learning.” St. Adelm, writing to King
 Alfred, says, that “ The learned of Ireland were as numerous as the stars ; that they were
 transplendant luminaries, enlightening all Europe in wisdom, to their immortal fame ; they were
 unceasingly combating the world, the Devil and the flesh, and every evil which flowed from
 them, as is evident from the numerous army of martyrs whose blood was shed in defence of the
 faith, the noble Christian heroes who forsook their native country and possessions, and who
 endured persecution, poverty, afflictions, and, finally, death itself for the love of God.” St. Ber-
 nard says, that, “ Like a mountain torrent, hosts of the saints of Ireland rushed forth into all
 the nations of the earth ;” and that “ Columbanus founded the Abbey of Luxovium in France.”
 Henry Antisiodrensis says, “ What necessity is there to speak of Ireland ? Out of it there comes
 to us a phalanx of philosophers to enlighten the ignorant, suffering voluntary banishment.”
 Joceline says, that “ There was not in the whole island a mountain or desert, a vale or recess

pollur gur Ejjonñac de řjol m-Đurđn jr řřjom-ode řořlajme do aen ċeud đeuce
mac lęřřjn a' ř-ċařřurř Ćhaejn a' m-Đurđotajn na řřajñce.—řđ do ċojmejřke đam, a
đtajn jonmřn, jr mđn an řolur do ċug tđ đam ajn řurñeañ na h-Ćjñeañ.—đ mřle
ojñeab ejl đeaurřajñ đřt muna m-bjad gur ab řđ lřorta ċ. Nřn lřorta lřom-řa do
beřt ag ċjřđeacř me do řurřljb-řj ċojđċe ag tuarřarřbalađ mo đurċċe. Ća lřon
Ćolajřteada a n-Ćjñđ ?—đ h-aon ; añ đřċlċaċ, do řurñeab de Mhajmřđđn na řlaom
me h-đřđurřab Đhajmřřořajne řřebċal agur řajřřear a nořř Ćolajřte na Ćřřonđjđe
đe ; řřđeab a' n-ajmřřj Ćařotljċeacřa nř řajb ujle acř na h-aen-ċolajřte eagna
agur řořlama, agur do mājn amľuř go řřċeacř Ćoċloñac añ řan ř-ċřřċ ; đjn
nř h-jonaon agur ċřřocajb ajle na h-Ćorajře agur na ċurřñe, nřn mřlleab řeacř,
bċur nā teanřab na nřaorđeal ; agur jr řurřur řo do ċurřřřn, đjn an tan do buaj-
đeañ nařajđ a ř-ċřřċ, mřllřear teanřab na řean-řđřřne řju agur ċonřbajřđ řřor
ř, jonđur go m-bāċajđ a' n-đearmad ř ; nřn đċajřnad řo a' n-Ćjñđ, đjn nřn buajđ
nařajđ řntj đ řřċeacř řaorđeal go řřċeacř Ćoċloñac, agur an teanřab řřn a břđ ajn
đ-tur aċa jr ċomřamajl nac řđ lęřċeab ajn đearmad ř : agur řurřlleab ajle, na
leabřna řo řċřřjobađ nořm na Ćoċloñacajb do řřċeacř go h-Ćjñ, aċajđ řċjñ, no na meř
leabřna řo řċřřjobađ ařta, ajn marřtajñ a n-đu : agur řarřmad řřn, ċa ċlōđ jr břċāř-
đa ajľne jonā ċlōđ na řurř-ċjľċe.

Do aŝŝa franĉaĵo aŝa Zhaojdealaĵo kuŝo d'a n-aŝŝa poŝlaĵme do ĉuŝ ĉuĉa ne

over one thousand one hundred students in the city of Caen in Brittany in France.—Under your tutelage, dear Father, and from your entertaining narration in describing our land I have received much information.—I could relate more a thousand-fold respecting the transcendent merits of our renowned countrymen, were it not too tedious to enumerate them.—It would never be irksome or tedious to me to hear thy melodious accents describing my native country. Pray tell me then, How many colleges are there now in Ireland?—One only, the College of Dublin; the Monastery of All Saints being converted thereto by Queen Elizabeth, and now called “Trinity College:” but in Catholic times all Ireland was one vast College, and remained so until the incursion of the Danes, for it was quite different from all other nations, from its insular situation, not being exposed to the devastation of ruthless invaders, and consequently has not suffered either destruction or adulteration of its laws, morality or language. This can be easily conceived, for it is usual with conquerors to eradicate the vernacular dialect and to keep the inhabitants in subjection to themselves; this was not the case in Ireland, for it was not conquered from the Milesian invasion to that of the Danes. The language of the aboriginal inhabitants, in all likelihood, has been preserved to our own time, and the literary labours of our ancestors, which were written anterior to the Danish invasion, or transcripts from them, were at that eventful and disastrous period (and many of them still are), in existence. What type or letter more beautiful than that of the Irish?

The French nation requested of the Irish to send them some of their learned men for the pur-

teazayzad meacta azur oljge dojb fējn ; do mjnead rjn me Zaoðlajb azur o rjn a lejt d' fanadarn focajl Zhaoðbejlze az fujnean na fmajnne ; acur tajrbeánajb do Zhaodlajb, de cufmnužad na majteara rjn, meay, ummajm azur zmað. Do bjð meay mōm ajm an nZaedejlz a buy azur eall mar teanzad beact, ljomta, bleðnaðde, brjožmar, žmžn, žarta, blayda, bjñ. Žur eðjz Dub-Zhajll cean jr j raetmužgead azur labmad me fjeadajb, bāndajb, aoy-dān, hajžetjb, dmuždētjb, yeanchadajb, aoyr-ealadan, brejteamnajb, razartajb, mō-flatajb azur mjžetjb. Jr rj mo labajm Pāttmujecc naomta azur a deyrzjobajl az rjolūžad an t-rojreējl j n-lmjr fājl na mjož. Jr rj do labajm Colam naomta na Cjlle az teazayzad pōjme na h-Alban : azur ba h-j an allōd teanzad ðjleay ojdeada požlajme jančarna Eorpa. Ar ro rle jr jmmeayda zo mojb rj a' n-ārd-meay az an mjž mar aēn mjr an rclābajde : Aēt anojr mar ārd-bjle ādbālmōm an trāc zeārmčarn fā n-a bun ē, žur ab uac-mjalta, tmojme an a čujtm jonā an marān bez cean-jrjoll mō bjdeay a b-pozur do'n d-talmrjn ; d'ejmžjð an mjoct cēadna do rajrljb Zaoðal com-majt me a d-teanzajn. Jr djombājž gēum ljom an Chjnead uayal, tmejðeac, laoēda ro do bejt ž djt ceanajr, atarmācta azur djl-maojne, ajm a d-tužan Žhajžjrtjm Žood (Sazart o Shacrajn do bjð az reōlad rcojle a' Lujmneac jr an m-blajdajn 1566) an tejrte-ro ; “ Cjnead a tā lājdjm a' ž-corp azur lūčmar, pojrtjl a' n-jntjñ azur ārd-ajzeantač

pose of instructing them in the jurisprudence and laws of Ireland. The Gael complied with their request and ever since, many Irish words are found incorporated with the French language. That people shew that they are not forgetful of that benefit, by the esteem, respect and affection which they entertain for Irishmen.

The Irish language was in high estimation at home and abroad. It was considered a polished, pointed, bland, copious, energetic, facetious, philosophic, sweet and melodious dialect, during some thousands of years, until the land was overrun and infested with the depredations of the Danes. It was cultivated and spoken by poets, bards, minstrels, physicians, druids, antiquaries, men of science, judges, priests, chieftains and kings. It was the language which St. Patrick and his disciples spoke when propagating the Gospel in Inisfail of Kings. It was the same which Colum Cille spoke when preaching to the people of Alba, and formerly, it was the peculiar language of the tutors of learning in the west of Europe ; hence it is obvious that it was held in high estimation by kings as well as their subjects. But now, as a lofty and stately tree of the forest when felled, falls with more dreadful ruin to the earth than the lowly shrub ; so has it happened to the Irish nobility and language. It grieves me to see this illustrious, accomplished and brave race deprived of chieftainry, patrimony and property, of whom Mr. Good (an English priest who kept a school in Limerick in the year 1566) bears the following testimony : “ They are a people robust in body and agile, magnanimous and high-spirited,

gēuṃ-ḡntleactac, cozamṡl, neam-coḡḡlteac a' m-beata, foḡḡdeac aṇ ɣaotay, a' b-ɣuact azuɣ aṇ ocɣay, ṡo ceaṇɣa ɣe h-aotḡḡb, buan-ɣeaymac a' nḡnāḡ, do-ɣāɣ-ujḡte a' b-paltanay, ɣo-čɣeḡḡmeac, foṇṡay a' cclū d'ɣāḡayl, neamfoḡḡdeac aḡṡ ṡaylaḡ no aḡṡ ēazcoḡṡ d'ɣullaḡḡḡ." Oč ! a Ɔhē ṡoḡṡ na h-ujle ḡlōḡṡe ! ḡayṡ a ḡajl cūm dūtcaḡṡ a ɣeḡṡɣeay do cīaṇ ḡḡlēay ḡaḡḡalḡa ɣēḡṡ a tā ɣcaḡṡte ɣo cheḡṡṡe h-āṡḡayḡ na cɣṡṡe, azuɣ eactɣanaḡc ḡo ɣūḡac ɣleac-ṡeacḡac az ol allḡṡ azuɣ az ɣealḡuḡac ḡleacta na dṡoḡḡḡe deḡṡeḡḡe ɣo a tā ɣōɣ a n-daēṡ-bṡoḡḡ, acuy tā-ḡayṡ luac-ɣaetayṡ a n-deaḡ-čṡoḡḡe, a n-deaḡ-cōṡṡluadaṡ azuɣ a n-deḡḡ-ḡṡḡoṡ dōḡḡ a'd ṡḡoḡact ḡṡḡan-ālḡṡ ɣēḡṡ.

quick-witted, warlike, prodigal of life, patient of labour cold and hunger, most generous to guests, constant in love, implacable in hatred, credulous, ambitious of fame, rash in resenting insults and wrong."—And O God of all glory, recall and restore to their country and to their rights, thine own faithful Irish children, who are dispersed emigrants throughout the various regions of the earth. Relieve such of them as are at home, groaning under the yoke of bondage, aliens in their native land, and on whose toil the merciless and cruel stranger banquets—whose rights he enjoys. Reward them for the goodness of their hearts, words and actions, in thy heavenly kingdom.